CURRENT NEWS EARLY BIRD

MONDAY, April 20, 1998

Wasp controls fire on container ship

By Sue Palumbo
Naples bureau

Navy firefighters from the amphibious assault ship Wasp returned to their ship Sunday morning after battling raging fires onboard a Marshall Islands-flagged container vessel located 85 miles west of Crete.

The Wasp rushed to the aid of the ship Saturday morning after receiving a distress call reporting two fires in the aft end of the ship and two injured crew members, one of whom was still in the water. Both crew members were treated aboard the Wasp and later transferred to Agosta Bay, Crete.

"The Wasp detached from the scene early this morning after battling the fire throughout the night," said Cmdr. Brian Cullin, public affairs officer for the 6th Fleet, on Sunday. "The fire is contained and under control but not yet out."

Cullin said Wasp crew members turned the firefighting efforts over to two tugs, which were on the scene Sunday. Both possess firefighting capabilities as well as the ability to tow.

Two dozen Wasp crew members were flown to the troubled ship to fight the fire. All have since returned to the Wasp.

Medical personnel from the assault ship treated the two injured men from the Marshall Islands' Sea-Land Mariner before transferring them off the ship.

One of the injured was believed to be a 45-year-old man with first- and second-degree burns to 7 percent of his body who was initially blown overboard.

The second man, 31, suffered facial lacerations and contusions to the lower half of his body from flying glass.

Both are said to be in stable condition. It is unclear what caused the blaze, though Cullin said there is believed to have been at least one explosion that blew about 15 semitruck-sized containers overboard.

Two AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopters, armed with 20 mm cannons from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked on the Wasp, sank the containers, which posed a hazard to other vessels navigating in the area.

Officials were unable to say with certainty what was in the containers, although the ship was believed to be carrying containers of phosphorus, barium and oxygen-acetylene.

The Wasp, with its 1,150-member crew and 1,000 embarked Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is on a routine six-month deployment to the Mediterranean. The Wasp is heading toward Souda Bay, Crete.

Cohen backs continued aid to update Egyptian military

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Visiting Defense Secretary William Cohen on Sunday said the United States would continue to provide grants and equipment to help Egypt modernize its armed forces.

He said that as part of America's $1.3 billion in military aid this year, Egypt would receive 50 Avenger mobile launch vehicles with Stinger missiles, two frigates, torpedoes, Harpoon anti-ship missiles and tank recovery vehicles.

"The United States will continue to support Egypt's program to modernize its military," Cohen said. "This year we are going to provide $1.3 billion in grants, and our troops are going to continue to exercise and train together."

Egypt receives $2.1 billion in American military and development aid each year, second only to Israel's $3 billion in aid.

Cohen spoke with reporters after meeting for 90 minutes with Egyptian President Hosni

Secretary 'fences' MCM spending
DISSATISFIED COHEN STEERS NEW COURSE FOR NAVY ON MINE WARFARE
Inside the Navy...See Pg. 2

Getting the F-22 Off the Ground
Lockheed Martin Sees a Future in the Jet Fighter, but the Project Is Stalled and Under Fire
Washington Post...See Pg. 3

GREEN-COLLAR WORKERS: Life in the Peacetime Army
Today's Army: Less an adventure than a job
Chicago Tribune...See Pg. 6

Mubarak. He said they discussed the stalled Israeli-Arab peace process, regional terrorism and the need to continue keeping close watch on Iran and Iraq.

He later laid a wreath at the memorial to Egypt's unknown soldier, saying it was to "recognize Egypt's leadership and sacrifice in the struggle for peace and give thanks that Egypt is continuing that campaign."

Before leaving for Israel, Cohen was to visit 900 U.S. troops on duty with a multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai today. Cohen earlier visited Turkey and Jordan, and his regional tour also will take him to Greece.

In Jordan on Saturday, Cohen said the United States will maintain a military presence in the Persian Gulf to ensure that Iraq complies with U.N. resolutions. He also reiterated that U.N. sanctions on Iraq will remain until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein produces evidence that the country has destroyed its weapons of mass destruction.

The U.S. military presence, beefed up earlier this year, will remain "for the foreseeable future to make sure there is full compliance with U.N. resolutions," Cohen said in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Inside the Navy April 20, 1998 Pg. 1

Secretary 'fences' MCM spending

DISSATISFIED COHEN STEERS NEW COURSE FOR NAVY ON MINE WARFARE

Defense Secretary William Cohen is no more reassured today about the Navy's efforts to develop and field mine countermeasure systems than he was roughly six months ago, according to a recent letter he sent to the Navy's leadership. After issuing a stern warning in November, Cohen now has done more than just criticize the service. He is calling for the Navy to lock in mine warfare spending at current levels for the foreseeable future and prevent any reductions until the service reaches its goal to equip "organic" minehunting forces.

Earlier this month, Cohen, as he had requested in November, was briefed on the Navy's fiscal year 1999 mine warfare plan, a yearly procedure manufactured by Congress in which the service must receive "certification" from the Office of the Secretary of Defense that programs are funded at the necessary levels. The secretary was briefed on April 1 by Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Donald Pilling, but other top Navy officials attended the meeting also, sources said.

While Navy sources familiar with the meeting contend it went well, after the meeting, Cohen issued a strict guidance that, in effect, blocks the Navy from dipping onto its mine warfare spending in internal budget wrangling and also warns the service not to pay for new systems at the expense of its operating minehunting and sweeping forces.

"As I mentioned during our meeting, I remain concerned about the lack of commitment of necessary resources to bring about the desired transformation of mine warfare within the shortest possible time," Cohen wrote Navy Secretary John Dalton on April 7. "Over the past several years, we have spent a great deal of our resources on [research and development] programs, none of which have resulted in any transition to production. We cannot continue in this manner in the future.

"It is time to fully comply with the will and intent of the Congress which has provided clear guidance with regard to the nation's expectations of the Navy," Cohen said.

A copy of Cohen's letter was obtained by *Inside the Navy*.

Last fall, after learning about a critical report on current mine warfare capabilities written by a battle group commander, Cohen asked for a brief on the state of the Navy's mine countermeasure efforts. During that meeting, Cohen learned firsthand about recent substantial reductions in MCM spending, news that did not please him.

After that meeting Cohen issued a strongly worded letter admonishing the Navy (*ITN*, Dec. 15, 1997, p1). "While we all have the best of intentions in our articulations on this subject, the prevailing opinion is that once again the Navy's commitment to its own Mine Warfare Plan is waning," Cohen wrote. "Our critics do not miss the fact that across FY-97/01 budget lines, we are imposing an 18 percent reduction on our MIW programs (using FY-97 as a baseline)."

In his most recent letter to Dalton, Cohen has taken the unusual step of personally forcing the Navy to adhere to spending guidelines for upcoming budgets.

Cohen has demanded the service "fence" MCM spending "until such time as we have crossed the threshold from the dedicated capability we currently have to the organic capability we seek to acquire." He also directed that forces that hunt and destroy mines, the Navy's Mine Warfare Command, receive an adequate level of funding. He demanded that the service ensure that money is not siphoned off to buy new organic systems. "In other words, the operational readiness of the current force continues to be very important," he wrote.

The secretary has also directed the Navy to get its funding in line with requirements, telling the service to develop a long-term spending plan that "balances" needs and resources. "Our conversation indicated that presently we are not in balance in that requirements exceed resources allocated," Cohen wrote. He also asked for a briefing about how the service will "mainstream" the idea of organic battle group minehunting and sweeping with operating forces. -- *Roman Schweizer*

Washington Post April 20, 1998 Pg. F12

Getting the F-22 Off the Ground

Lockheed Martin Sees a Future in the Jet Fighter, but the Project Is Stalled and Under Fire

By Tim Smart
Washington Post
Staff Writer

Seventeen years in the making, the Air Force's latest-generation jet fighter rests inside a hangar at Lockheed Martin Corp.'s Marietta, Ga., factory as a robotic arm coats the aircraft with secret materials to make it invisible to enemy radar.

This is the second prototype F-22 Raptor, the designated successor to the F-15 Eagle, and the cornerstone of the military's plan to maintain control of the skies in the 21st century.

The Air Force views the F-22 as its "air dominance" fighter, designed to seize the skies in the early days of a war. But the F-22's escalating cost, now estimated at $187 million for each plane, and concerns that it has not had enough flight testing have led congressional critics to question whether the plane's development should be delayed.

Minor technical problems with the plane have already held it up. The first flight, which occurred last fall, was three months behind schedule.

Last week, Pentagon acquisition chief Jacques Gansler put off for a year a decision on proceeding with full-scale production of the plane, although he said the program is still on track.

"What we are trying to do is gain greater confidence in the product before releasing it into production," Gansler said. "But it is important to emphasize there are no problems with the program that we know of."

Keeping the $62 billion F-22 program on schedule and within budget is a priority for Lockheed Martin. The Bethesda-based aerospace giant can hardly afford another contretemps with its biggest customer -- the federal government -- with whom it already is fighting in court over its proposed $12 billion purchase of Northrop Grumman Corp.

Financially, the F-22 has brought about $10 billion into Lockheed Martin's coffers so far. It is expected to be the company's No. 3 moneymaker this year, behind the F-16 fighter and Hercules C-130 military transport.

Even though the plane is assembled at a World War II-era complex in Georgia from parts made in 43 states, the plane's success, like that of any big-ticket weapons program, depends almost exclusively on what happens in Washington.

Already, critics have begun circling the program. On March 25, the General Accounting Office recommended to members of a Senate Armed Services Committee that the program be postponed by almost a year because the F-22 has not had the amount of flight testing that was planned or is common with large-scale weapons development programs.

Those concerns and the plane's costs have prompted sharp criticism from some senators. The price tag of the F-22 has risen as budget constraints have forced the Pentagon to cut back the number of planes it will purchase.

"I think we really have to watch this," said Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio), a supporter of the plane. "And if we get over $200 million a copy per fighter aircraft, I don't know where we're going because there's going to be some objections to this from an awful lot of people in the Congress and in the Senate."

The plane's importance to Lockheed Martin goes beyond dollars and cents, however.

The F-22 also is a virtual test bed of new technologies and manufacturing concepts, the success of which could go a long way toward determining whether Lockheed Martin will beat arch-rival Boeing Co. for the upcoming contract to build the Joint Strike Fighter. The JSF is the plane the Pentagon has chosen as its workhorse fighter for all three military services and will be a much bigger program than the F-22.

"What it means to the company is the technology and the jobs," said William Bullock, head of Lockheed Martin's Marietta-based unit. "Throughout the F-22's life there are going to be continuous updates because it is such a software-intensive airplane."

The company estimates that the program will produce about 15,000 jobs in the engineering and development phase, but that number will swell to 27,000 when the aircraft reaches peak production of 36 a year, expected in 2004.

"This is absolutely a pivotal moment for the program," said Richard Aboulafia, an analyst with the Teal Group in Fairfax. "It's really easy to kill a program before it enters production and really hard when it enters production."

In response to criticism, Arthur L. Money, Air Force assistant secretary for acquisition, has said that delaying the program would add as much as $4 billion to the program.

Money told the Senate panel that the Air Force and Lockheed Martin had spent several months in "hard negotiations" last year, resulting in an agreement for the company to produce the first batch of operational planes under a firm fixed-price contract.

Lockheed Martin and its suppliers also have proposed close to $13 billion in savings from a variety of lean manufacturing techniques and other cost-cutting ideas. These include such things as buying supplies, such as composite materials and titanium, in tandem with suppliers to achieve better pricing. Making the pilot canopy out of aluminum instead of titanium alone would save $17 million, the company said.

"I will point out commercial practices to the hilt are being used here," Money said, adding it was essential to keep the program on schedule to preserve the diverse group of subcontractors working on the F-22.

"This industrial base is fragile," Money said. "These people have been told originally they have 750 aircraft. Then it went to 600, then it went to 438, now it's going to 339. And, frankly, there's a lot of contractors saying: 'Why do I want to stay on this program for that matter?' "

The aircraft already has suffered some minor technical glitches, including a fuel leak that proved difficult to correct and some problems with the special materials used on the plane's wings and aft fuselages.

Keeping the F-22 within budget is not only an economic necessity, but also a political one. The military has ambitious plans for its jet fighter inventory in the 21st century, proceeding in various states of research, development and production with an upgraded F/A-18E/F for the Navy, the F-22 for the Air Force and the JSF for the three services.

Collectively, the programs would cost more than $300 billion. Few in the industry believe the country will be able to afford all of them in anywhere near the quantities that the Pentagon wants.

"We've raised questions about going ahead with all three of them," said Steven M. Kosiak, a budget expert who follows military spending at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "If one had to guess what's going to happen, it will be that the F-22 and the F-18 are going to be bought in smaller quantities and that the JSF will be pushed back."

While there is substantial debate about the cost of the aircraft, there is no question it represents a quantum technological leap over the F-15, which began operating in 1975.

Industry analysts say the F-15 is still among the world's best fighters, but new generations of fighters -- such as the Russian Mig 29 or the Eurofighter being designed by a European consortium -- are its equal. What the F-22 will offer that the F-15 doesn't have is the capability to cruise at twice the speed of sound without using afterburners, and a stealthy design with no sharp edges, and weapons and sensors hidden inside the airframe.

When it was conceived in the early 1980s, the "Advanced Tactical Fighter" was viewed by Pentagon planners as a necessary counterforce to the Soviet Union's most sophisticated

fighters. But with the threat of war with the Soviets no longer an issue, the F-22 today is being touted as the fighter that will ensure U.S. dominance in the skies.

"This plane is the last of the Cold War 'best-we-can-create' fighters," said Teal Group's Aboulafia.

Fulfilling the Air Force's mission for the F-22 requires three attributes: the ability to fly at supersonic speeds without use of fuel-guzzling afterburners, the capacity to be nearly invisible to radar and state-of-the-art electronics.

The F-22 will be powered by two Pratt & Whitney jet engines that each put out 35,000 pounds of thrust and have adjustable exhaust nozzles that provide greater mobility. Because the engines generate enormous heat, the aft fuselage will be made of heat-resistant, lightweight materials.

"The back end's primarily titanium," said Bob Barnes, F-22 program manager at Boeing, which is a one-third partner in the aircraft's development. "It's hot and it shakes like hell back there."

Drawing on Lockheed's long history with stealth technology from its famed "Skunk Works" facility in Palmdale, Calif., the F-22's extensive collection of radars, electronic-warfare "jammers," sensors and countermeasure equipment are hidden beneath the wings and frame to make the plane less visible.

The F-22 features an electronically scanned radar, which does not move side to side like conventional radars, made by Northrop Grumman at its Linthicum, Md., factory. The radar is buried inside the nose cone of the F-22 and will be used sparingly in combat, to minimize electronic emissions that might be picked up by an enemy radar.

All of the electronics are integrated into one "avionics suite" that requires 1.5 million lines of software code. The avionics are processed through two central computers that handle information at the rate of 10 million bytes per second -- each equal in speed to a Cray supercomputer.

Rather than monitoring individual sensors for radar and other warning systems, the pilot will see an integrated liquid-crystal display that lights up with warnings when an enemy plane is nearby, then identifies it and indicates how close it is.

The plane also features an interconnected electronics "data link" that will allow an F-22 pilot to share live information from another F-22 flying nearby, or from an airborne early warning radar plane. The information would include such things as the other plane's fuel load, how many missiles are left in its weapons bay and other vital data.

"It's incorporating a lot of hitherto untried combinations of electronics," said Art Nishimura, an analyst with Frost & Sullivan, a market research firm.

The use of computer technology is also prevalent in the way the F-22 has been designed and is being manufactured. Essentially, the aircraft was designed on computer by workers across the country who used interactive software and videoconferencing to make changes to the F-22 on their screens. The same types of computer-aided design and manufacturing techniques pioneered by Boeing on its 777 wide-body jet are being used on the military aircraft program.

"We're all linked together by the power of the computer to a common database," said Lockheed Martin's Bullock.

The radar is being made in Maryland, yet Seattle-based Boeing is responsible for testing it aboard a specially equipped 757 and for ensuring that all of the avionics work together smoothly in the final assembly.

Boeing also is building the wings and aft fuselage, shipping them by rail to Lockheed Martin's Georgia facility, which has responsibility for the front end of the plane and for final assembly. The midsection of the F-22 arrives via truck from Lockheed Martin's airplane division in Fort Worth.

Once all of the parts arrive in Marietta, they are put together much as personal computers are assembled from individual snap-in components.

"Tab A into slot B is a good way to put it," said Boeing's Barnes.

Because of the reliance on computer-assisted design techniques, the companies and the Air Force say the same regime of flight testing used on prior airplane programs is unnecessary on the F-22.

"The two times we flew the airplane were flawless," said Tom Burbage, Lockheed Martin's F-22 program manager.

Burbage said he is "very sensitive" to the question of the F-22's cost and that the agreement to manufacture the first two production batches under a firm price contract "was one hell of a contractor commitment." He pointed out that the program has been substantially rescheduled and cut back, so that today the company will build about half the number of fighters originally planned by the Pentagon.

There will be a small export market, estimated by Teal Group's Aboulafia as between 100 and 150 aircraft, which would likely be sold to allies such as Israel, Saudi Arabia or South Korea.

But the ultimate payoff for the company could come in the next century, when the military chooses who will manufacture the JSF, and on future weapons programs that will likely rely on the design and manufacturing lessons learned in building the F-22.

Baltimore Sun

April 19, 1998

Lockheed's star war is dud so far

Anti-missile missile hasn't hit a thing in four expensive tests

By Greg Schneider
Sun Staff

During the first part of May, something is supposed to explode over the high desert of New Mexico.

It could be a pair of missiles colliding at a combined speed four times faster than a bullet. Or it could be the reputation of America's biggest defense contractor.

Lockheed Martin Corp. of Bethesda, whose slogan is "Mission Success," has failed to hit the target in four previous tests of a new Army missile designed to knock enemy rockets out of the sky.

Congress has ordered the Pentagon to develop such a weapon because American troops are all but defenseless against the ballistic missiles of rogue nations such as Iran. If this next test fails -- and each one costs tens of millions of taxpayer dollars -- it is uncertain whether Lockheed Martin will get another chance to make it work.

To crank the pressure up even higher, the Pentagon is scheduled to announce almost simultaneously next month the winner of a landmark contract to assemble a missile defense system for the entire country.

The candidates are Boeing Co. and a joint venture of Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and TRW.

With ballistic missile defense the kind of lucrative, politically prominent market that Lockheed Martin prefers to dominate -- worth $4 billion next year -- May is shaping up as an unusually important month for the company.

Dual successes would give Lockheed Martin unparalleled status. Failures, especially in light of the company's court battle with the government over plans to buy Northrop Grumman Corp., would mark a corporate low point and raise questions about Lockheed Martin's ability to manage complex systems.

"Clearly there were problems in terms of quality" on the Army missile program, Pentagon acquisitions chief Jacques Gansler said in an interview. "One might call that management issues. My impression is they're trying to address those. We'll see."

For an annual report to Congress last week on the Army missile system, called the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense program, or THAAD, Gansler had his staff consider an option that would be particularly humiliating to Lockheed Martin: bringing in another company to compete for, take over or clean up the troubled system.

"It was analyzed and we

decided not to. Of course, we can always revisit that," Gansler said.

Lockheed Martin has taken a year since its last failure to test each component of the THAAD system. "We are scrutinizing this thing a lot tighter than we have in the past," said the company's program manager, a plain-talking retired Army general named John H. Little.

He said he will postpone the test up to the last moment if anything appears out of whack. The launch has already been delayed twice, having been scheduled originally for December. Another failure and, "I know the government will not be very happy," Little said. "I know I will get wire brushed pretty good and Lockheed Martin will get wire brushed pretty good."

Making one rocket strike another on the fringes of space is a hard thing to do. Scientists have been trying to figure that out since President Ronald Reagan unveiled the "star wars" program in 1983. Over those 15 years, the nation has spent about $50 billion developing the technology. After all that investment -- more than the Pentagon spends in one year on all new aircraft, Navy vessels and weapons systems combined -- there is still no working system.

"The thing has consumed 50 percent more than the stealth bomber program and they've got nothing to show for it. We're talking nothing," said John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists, who has long criticized the effort.

Anti-missile missiles come under the aegis of a Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, or BMDO, and is divided into two categories: Theater missile defense, where THAAD is a key component, means shooting down ballistic missiles that threaten troops in the field. National missile defense means protecting the continental United States.

Compared with Reagan's original goal of an umbrella in space to stop Soviet warheads, the current national defense plan is modest. About 20 missiles housed in one central complex -- possibly in North Dakota -- would counter the odd terrorist shot or accidental launch. The government would like to deploy it as soon as 2003. Even that limited plan involves a mind-boggling network of satellite sensors, ground radar systems and computer links. To save money, the Pentagon wants to hand over assembly of that system to a private company.

That contract, for what's called the National Missile Defense Lead Systems Integrator, will be awarded during the first week of May. It could be worth more than $10 billion.

Lockheed Martin formed a new company with its partners Raytheon and TRW to seek the job. Their United Missile Defense Co. is considered a heavy favorite over Boeing, because the three partners already are working on major components of the system while Boeing has little experience.

"Our three companies have most of the expertise in the United States on ballistic missile defense technologies and programs. In fact, we have almost all the programs, with the exception of one [relatively small] contract held by Boeing," said William C. Loomis, a former Lockheed Martin executive who is president and chief executive of United Missile Defense.

Lockheed Martin dominates its two partners in the field, and experts say the company has made ballistic missile defense a priority.

"This is an emerging market and clearly one that Lockheed Martin is looking to expand as one of their key markets of the next century," said Brett Lambert, an industry analyst with the defense consulting firm DFI International.

Losing the national missile defense contract would not cripple the company, because it already has so many of the component contracts, Lambert said. But, he added, it would be a huge moral victory for Boeing.

Some experts say the Seattle company could be the better choice. As Pike put it, a Boeing 747 jetliner is nothing but a huge system put together from thousands of components.

That's just the type of systems integration demanded by a national missile defense network. But Lockheed Martin's skills in that area have come under scrutiny because of its problems with THAAD.

Even though Lockheed Martin is only a third of United Missile Defense, "their lack of performance on THAAD could have some negative bearing" on the national missile contract, said financial analyst Paul Nisbet of JSA Research Inc.

A Pentagon panel released a report in late February that criticized the nation's ballistic missile defense programs in general, and THAAD in particular, for what it called a "rush to failure" brought on by unrealistic pressures to hurry and develop.

"The THAAD program office also expressed concerns with the contractor program management. Again, the root causes were associated not only with the technological challenge but also with the basic set of disciplines essential to success in developing and testing complex systems," wrote the panel, which was chaired by retired Air Force Gen. Larry Welch.

The Welch Report, as it is known, went on to say that similar problems could put the national missile defense system at risk.

Rep. Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican who heads a key defense subcommittee, was angered by the report and said the technology has mainly suffered from poor public relations.

THAAD has had seven tests, including four in which the missile was actually fired at a target rocket. Only the first test, of the missile's engine, was considered a success. But Weldon says the Army has done a poor job of explaining that even the "failures" contributed a great deal of knowledge about the technology.

"If THAAD has another unsuccessful test," he warned, "some members of Congress, I think, will try to kill the program."

No one feels that pressure more than Little, the Lockheed Martin program manager.

"When we started out, the people who put it together said they were willing to accept risk because they wanted the capability quickly. I think that eroded with the tightening of the defense budget," Little said.

Originally, THAAD was going to be test-shot once a month for two years. That's too expensive today.

Under certain scenarios, Little could still hold his head up even if the next shot misses. Simply completing the test sequence without a system failure would produce valuable information.

Just to be safe, Little said he will bring "every good luck charm I own" to the White Sands, N.M., test range early next month.

Chicago Tribune April 18, 1998

U.S. Will Aid Destruction Of Soviet-Era Heavy Bombers, Official Says

From Tribune News Services

KIEV, UKRAINE -- Ukraine will destroy 40 strategic heavy bombers after the United States agreed to pay for the destruction, the secretary of the policymaking Security and Defense Council said Friday.

"We have 44 of these planes. We will destroy 40 of them," Volodymyr Horbulin said.

He would not say how much the U.S. would pay for destruction of the Tu-160 "Blackjacks" and Tu-95 bombers, left over from the Soviet era and currently at two airbases in the former Soviet republic.

Ukraine had previously tried to sell the bombers to Russia, which refused to buy them.

The Ukrainian official said agreement was reached with the United States following recent talks with Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Kiev says its military doctrine foresees no need for such powerful planes.

Green-collar workers
Life in the peacetime Army

Chicago Tribune April 19, 1998
Pg. 1

Today's Army: Less an adventure than a job

By F. Richard Ciccone
and Joseph A. Kirby
Tribune Staff Writers

First of five parts.

FT. CARSON, Colo. -- As 1st Lt. Ian Anderson was completing his three-year commitment to the U.S. Army last fall, he began a series of job interviews that amazed and dismayed him.

"I told one woman who interviewed me I was a lieutenant, and she didn't know what that was. They don't know the difference between officers and enlisted personnel," said Anderson, who relocated to Boston with his wife, a recent law school graduate.

"They ask if you joined the Army for the money. They think everyone joins for the money. They think the Army is all black. Another person who interviewed me didn't know the difference between the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines. She thought it was all one thing."

A half-century ago it seemed that everyone in America was in the armed forces or was the son, daughter, brother, sister, father, mother or lover of someone in the Army.

Thirty years ago every American male anticipated or dreaded the draft. Most of them avoided it, some illegally, but the specter of the Army and its austere, even grim lifestyle was an expected detour in American manhood.

Today, the Army as a way of life is only an afterthought, if it is ever thought of at all by most Americans who have virtually no contact with the military.

There was a brief flurry of chest-pounding pride and unfurling of dusty flags and a welcome of fluttering of roses after the Desert Storm triumph seven years ago, but for most Americans the conflict in the Middle East was simply cheering for the home team.

Few Baby Boomers served in the armed forces. During the Vietnam War the GIs included few of those who had avoided the draft by staying in college or discovering any possible alternative to military service. Hardly anyone under age 40 has served, and most Generation Xers don't even know anyone who was in the Army.

Most of what the public knows about the modern military stems from stories of recruits being coerced into sex at the Army's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland the "don't ask, don't tell" debate over homosexuals in the military, the Navy's Tailhook debacle and the Air Force's dilemma with the admittedly adulterous Lt. Kelly Flinn.

The modern Army is vastly different than the images most Americans have of strict discipline, constant marching, Spartan living conditions and a sense of uncertain adventure coupled with intervals of carefree frolics.

The Chicago Tribune recently visited several Army posts to provide an update on the modern GI beyond the sexual conflicts that have created a dominant image but have a minimal effect on the daily life of a soldier.

A four-month examination of today's Army found that soldiers are just as concerned about their lifestyle as the civilians who may be baffled at anyone's decision to join an institution steeped in discipline and sacrifice. The soldiers have many of the same ambitions as most Americans, especially men, in their 20s: Some want to succeed in sports, others want to run for public office and almost all of them want the next promotion and pay raise.

Indeed, though many of them joined the Army for its educational benefits, more than a few professed a sincere, perhaps anachronistic, desire to serve their country. That said, few of them are any more eager than their civilian counterparts would be to shed their blood or give their lives on some unknown battleground in some unforeseen war.

Yet they are ready on a daily basis to be deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Korea or any one of a hundred places unlikely to be chosen as "getaways" by their peers in civilian life.

The Army mostly lives where everyone else in America lives, in houses and apartments. For the less than 20 percent who live on post, the family housing is modest. Single soldiers do not bunk in barracks with 30 or 40 roommates. They share dormitory quarters and cover their walls with rock posters or paint of various glowing hues. Soldiers pick up their kids at day care and coach soccer teams.

The honky-tonks that once lined the roads outside the post gates are mostly gone. Single soldiers hang out at malls filled with Gaps, Wal-Marts, Radio Shacks and every imaginable form of fast food. Soldiers date, marry and divorce. The Army doesn't tell anyone who to date or marry, although the "don't ask, don't tell" mandate sometimes provides cover for heterosexuals avoiding the Army's perpetual frown on fraternization between enlisted and commissioned personnel.

Mess halls resemble suburban restaurants with booths and music and soft lighting. Some have real flowers on the tables. The traditional SOS of World War II infamy may still be found on a breakfast buffet line but there are also muffins and croissants.

Most of the Army is married and having children who attend preschool and join Cub Scouts and Indian Princesses. They live like any other Chicago child except they live in more places. Their mommies and daddies do what most Chicagoland mommies and daddies do every day. They go to work.

The Army, at century's end, is a job.

Women soldiers talk of glass ceilings more than harassment. Ambitious soldiers fret about the inability to get ahead of peers who perform only the minimum requirements for promotion. Downsizing is just as much a fear in the military as it is in civilian companies. Everyone worries if the benefit package and the pensions are going to be cut.

The Army, whose ranks swelled to 8.3 million during the great midcentury conflicts, has fewer than 500,000 soldiers, and if some congressional forces have their way, it will dwindle even more.

This disturbs and frightens career soldiers like Ruben Blackmon, who completed his Army career as the command sergeant major of the post at Ft. Carson, Colo. At the end of the World War II, the American military numbered 15 million out of a population of 150 million -- one in 10 Americans served in the armed forces. "By the end of the century you will have less than 1 million servicemen protecting a nation of close to 300 million," Blackmon noted. "I wonder if that's right."

The Army has undergone other drastic changes since the Vietnam War. The U.S. ended the draft in 1973, creating the volunteer Army. It began accepting women and ordered a halt to the physical intimidation of soldiers who failed to meet GI Joe standards. There are supposed to be no more Sgt. Snorkels, beating hapless privates like Beetle Bailey into cartoon clouds of dust.

The question of sexual harassment that the Supreme Court is dealing with in several cases this spring is a major preoccupation in America and the Army, which is simply a mirror of the society it serves. In September, the Army released a report based on interviews with 500 of its more than 70,000 women soldiers. The report showed widespread dissatisfaction with attitudes toward women, and the Army instituted more training periods and procedures to change them. The report did not reveal widespread rape or sexual abuse allegations, but it did little to erase the images of Aberdeen and the court-martial of Sgt. Major Gene McKinney.

Most women soldiers talk readily about the "old boy" network that still exists in the Army, although few of them see any difference in their jobs and a comparable civilian

workplace.

"The attitudes in the Army aren't going to change until society changes," said Master Sgt. Sharon Pierce, a 19-year veteran based at Ft. Carson. "The Army is changing just as the civilian world changes. The younger men are far less threatened by women doing their jobs. It's the older generation that finds change difficult, but that is the way they were brought up. Until men are brought up differently, you'll always have some guys who think women don't belong, whether it's the Army or some factory."

When asked about harassment, lewd remarks and discriminatory practices, most women soldiers reply, "It depends on who you work for."

As in the private sector, the problem of women being supervised solely by men is diminishing as the number of female officers and senior sergeants increases.

The role of women in the Army still piques society's prurient interests. During Desert Storm the media spent an inordinate amount of time exploring the pregnancies of women GIs. It still has been unable to report on the exact number of Iraqi casualties.

Ever since George Washington sent his soldiers home after Yorktown, the Army's importance to its civilian bosses has declined sharply with the conclusion of hostilities and threats. The peacetime Army has always been a favorite target of politicians. In the 1990s, with America eagerly awaiting its "peace dividend," the federal hierarchy instituted its usual cutbacks and adopted the private sector's favorite cost reduction method -- downsizing.

The Army's size has been reduced from 780,000 to 495,000 and is scheduled to decline another 15,000 by 2000.

Congress is far more of a worry to soldiers than harassment is. Congress has reduced the time-honored "retire at 20 at half pay" that retained so many GIs from the World War II and Korean conflicts. Now it is stay for 20 years if you are allowed and take 35 percent of pay. Dependents are now on a managed-care health program. Dental work is not totally free. And not everyone who has a clean record and gets promoted is certain of reaching maximum retirement benefits. The Army eliminates jobs just the way General Motors and IBM do.

And Congress, which from the Civil War to Vietnam always had a healthy number of veterans who might empathize with the military, is being filled with those same Americans who never served or even knew anyone in the service.

"I'd like to stay for 20," said Sgt. Antonio Jenkins of the 101st Air Assault Division at Ft. Campbell, Ky., "but they are taking so many things away from the soldier, the perks, the benefits. Once it was 50 percent retirement pay, now it's 30, what's next? Being a soldier is getting to be just like a blue-collar worker."

Not exactly.

Beyond the budget cuts and the downsizing and the fretting over benefits that create the same anxieties throughout the American work force, there is deployment.

From the end of World War II to the end of the Cold War, the Army was deployed 10 times. In the last six years, it has deployed 25 times.

On any given day, 25 percent of the Army does not sleep in its own bed.

There are 45,000 soldiers in Europe, 37,000 in Korea, 15,000 deployed in various parts of the Pacific and Asia and another 35,000 on special training duty or assigned to any one of the 100 countries where the U.S. has a presence, training duty or public relations effort.

"It's a totally different way of life for the Army," said Brig. Gen. Jack Schmitt, deputy base commander at Ft. Carson. "Before the Cold War ended we did not deploy like this. We had a forward presence in Europe and in the Pacific, which we still have, but we did not have all this continual deployment because we were focused on what was a major threat in two parts of the world. Now, we have regional threats and concerns."

The Army's shrinkage means fewer people are going more places more often.

Some soldiers have been deployed in unit actions during the last five years to Somalia, Liberia, Haiti, Rwanda and the Middle East. Others fill normal rotations in Germany and Korea. Still others go to Bolivia, Thailand, Norway, Romania, Honduras, Denmark, Poland and almost any place on the globe that has a name. The average soldier at Ft. Carson, where 15,000 soldiers are based, spends 109 days away from home each year. Specialized units, such as the 10th Special Forces, may spend 180 days in other countries.

"This is a great concern," Schmitt said. "We must have balanced readiness between deploying and maintaining a soldier's quality of life."

As the Army explores its new regional missions the equation for deployment has changed. While such high profile units as the 101st Air Assault Division at Ft. Campbell, Ky., can be spun off into the world on 18 hours notice, it is not always the combat units that get first call.

"The first eight people the Army sent to Bosnia were reconnaissance. The next one was a public affairs specialist, and the next 10 were also public affairs people," said Sgt. Maj. Mark vanTreuren, head of B Company public affairs office at Ft. Hood, Texas. "What has happened since the Cold War is the people who used to be sent first are being sent last, and the ones who used to go last are going first."

Exacerbating the problem is that the Army no longer is mostly single, as it was in the days of the draft. More than 60 percent of the Army is married. For the single soldier, deployments might be an adventure. For married soldiers it is often a dilemma. "It's impossible to maintain a family and an Army career in the 1990s," said one departing officer.

Even West Point graduates, no longer the bulwark of the officer cadre, depart after their five-year commitment. For many, the reason is money.

A four-star general with 24 years of service -- there only are a dozen of them -- earns $136,820 a year, including housing allowance. A private with less than two years of service earns $11,000 a year in base pay while a newly minted second lieutenant earns a little more than $21,000.

The Army argues that many of its soldiers are paid comparably to what their skills would demand in the private sector. It also admits its lowest ranks are terribly underpaid. There are 6,600 soldiers who receive food stamps and thousands of others would qualify "if they weren't too proud to ask," said Sgt. Maj. Blackmon.

The biggest attrition the Army suffers in its officer cadre is among the junior officers, lieutenant through captain, who represent 50 percent of the 66,000 commissioned officers. The prospect of more money is a big factor, but deployment and regimentation take a toll too.

Capt. Mike Mills, West Point Class of '92, is getting out, citing too many deployments, sagging morale and lack of challenge.

"Promotions are routine. I can be 100 percent effective, and the next guy can put out only 80 percent, and we're both going to get to the same place," Mills said.

That has always been the strength and weakness of the military. While Mills and others see no rewards for high achievement, many of the officers and almost all the career enlisted personnel savor the security of equal opportunity and equal rewards.

Enlisted promotions are based on merit. Soldiers accrue points for meeting military goals such as physical fitness, marksmanship and performance of duties. But promotions also are based on special training and individual accumulation of skills. Education is critical in the modern Army.

Everyone has a high school diploma. Nearly 17,000 of the 300,000 enlisted personnel have college degrees, and many are working on graduate degrees. There are 18,000 graduate degrees in the Army, most of them held by officers. Of the soldiers who re-enlisted in 1996, 3,500 have college degrees. Almost every soldier has accrued college credits. Most senior enlisted personnel have college degrees and are working on graduate degrees. Of the 375 generals of various ranks in the Army, they have among them more than 400 graduate degrees. Not every general has

a master's, but some have two.

Education is the Army's most potent recruiting and retaining tool. Besides the highly publicized $30,000 worth of education money offered to recruits, there is the college loan program, and once someone is in the Army, there are programs to provide college education, technical training or tuition funds for almost anything from computer programming to beauty school. Reenlistment incentives include a six-month college sabbatical.

Almost every soldier interviewed said it was the promise of college dollars that lured him or her to the Army, although many enlisted soldiers had their college degrees before they signed up.

Recruiters, of course, promise other things like training for careers that will enrich enlistees' return to civilian life.

Sgt. James Adams of Harvey was recruited to be a combat engineer. "My recruiter asked me if I ever saw those big buildings in Chicago being blown up to make way for new construction. He told me if I joined the Army, I'd be blowing up bigger things and when I got out I could make a lot of money blowing up buildings in Chicago."

Instead, Adams recalled wryly, "I was out there all alone in the middle of the night in the desert on the Kuwait border marking roads to Baghdad. I often wish I could meet that recruiter again sometime," he said with a smile. "I'd shake his hand. He did a good job on me."

Adams wasn't really a hard sell. Like many others, he was not only going somewhere, he also was leaving some place.

"I come from Harvey. You know what's that like. `Either deal or die.' I left."

Adams, like many African-Americans, was chided by friends for going into the Army.

There still is a perception in the nation's urban centers that the Army is racist. Sgt. Forrest Bradford of the 101st Air Assault Division enlisted six years ago from his home in Oakland. "All my friends said, `You're crazy. The Army is full of racists.' I said, `Man, you're the one that's crazy. The Army's all black.' "

Not quite. But 27 percent of the Army is. There are twice as many white males as African-American males in the Army and numbers black female soldiers and white females are almost the same. There are 27 African-American generals in the Army. One of them is a woman. There are 348 white generals, six of them women.

The top non-commissioned officer spot, sergeant major, with a rank of E-9, has 1,769 white males and 988 black males. At the E-8 and E-7 ranks, the gap is closer. Slightly more than 50 percent of those ranks are filled by whites and more than 35 percent by blacks. It is clear that more blacks who enter the Army at the enlisted level choose to make it a career than either their white counterparts or black commissioned officers.

Bradford, 25, plans to make the Army his career, and he could be, would like to be, a poster boy for Army recruiting. Bradford is a self described "high-speed" soldier, one of the warriors who are the minority in the sea of soldiers serving in motor transport, aviation, administration, finance, signal corps, hospital services, veterinary services, acquisition, intelligence, public affairs, military intelligence, military police and legal services.

Bradford rappels from helicopters, jumps from planes and runs and runs and runs. The Army will not admit that its physical standards have declined since the advent of the volunteer Army and women GIs, but the daily physical training standards are different for women and the once physically intimidating nature of an Army base and the sergeants who ran them is remote. Critics say the Army has gone soft, but the critics have missed Forrest Bradford's act.

For those who fret there are no warriors, Bradford and the rest of the 101st Air Assault Division exhibit their esprit freely. They run, they jump and interject their daily routine with shouts of "Hoo-Ah!" that a film director would cherish. But there is no false bravado in the modern Army. Bradford is not choosing a career to go to war.

"I will stay. I have no choice. I have a little girl and another baby coming. I work two night jobs. The Army will take care of my family. I'll never be poor again. I lived in places with no heat, no electricity. My daughters will never go through that. I'll stay as long as I have to."

His colleague, Sgt. Jenkins, could also be in the Army commercial. He was candid about his decision, one that so many others make for the same reason although they prefer to talk about opportunities and education.

"I was trying to prove something. I wanted to be a man. Being a man and being a soldier go hand in hand. They say, 'You want to be a man, come take this walk.' So I took the walk."

Next: Family life in the Army

Career soldier has feet in old era and new

By F. Richard Ciccone
Tribune Staff Writer

FT. CARSON, Colo. -- Sgt. Maj. Ruben Blackmon is the whole nine yards, a piece of work, the real deal. He's the New Breed and the Old Breed. He's the ultimate touchy-feely soldiers' friend with a wistful kick-butt mentality hidden behind the gloss.

"Everytime some soldier tells me he's in a non-career advancing job, I want to put his butt on KP (kitchen patrol)," Blackmon said.

KP, scrubbing every pot and pan in the mess hall, doesn't exist in the modern Army. Neither does the mess hall. Now it's a dining facility and most of them are more pleasant than a Michigan Avenue restaurant. Soldiers don't sit on benches at long tables. They have leather booths and coffee bars. They have elevator music and chandeliers. They have buffets and salad bars and two kinds of vegetables.

Soldiers live in dormitory rooms they can decorate with posters of heavy metal rockers or paint in neon. No one bangs the lid of the trash can to wake them. No one checks every day to see if their bunks are made. For that matter, no one in the Army sleeps on bunks anymore.

It wasn't that way when Ruben Blackmon of Lancaster, S.C., an 8th-grade dropout and notorious pool hustler, entered the U.S. Army. And there aren't many people left who entered the Army the way Blackmon did.

"I got a letter saying the president of the United States and my friends and neighbors wanted me. I was drafted," he recalled.

"I came into the Army a scared little kid certain they were going to send me to Vietnam to get my butt shot off. Instead, they sent me to Korea. In some ways it was worse. People were getting killed there, too, but no one knew about it. We called it the `hidden war.' "

"I made sergeant in a year and I found out I like being in charge. I stayed."

Ruben Blackmon was there when the volunteer Army was born. "Everybody else left and I thought maybe I could help," he said. "It was very different at the start. In those days you'd take a can of Kiwi and a brush and you had a shoe shine. Now, every once in a while, I see a good spit shine coming back."

"When I came in the Army soldiers and NCOs (non-commissioned officers) were expected to know what they were doing. The sergeant major used to check the areas to make sure they were policed and that the motor pool was secure. He never talked to anybody. Now, the NCO is a multidimensional professional."

Blackmon, the command sergeant major of the base at Ft. Carson, slid his chair around the long desk cluttered with papers and military memorabilia to point at the monitor. "I need to know how to use my computer just to keep my people up to date on what's going on everyday in the Army. I go out every day and

talk to soldiers. I need to know what's going on."

"I remember," Blackmon chuckled, "in Korea, a guy on guard at the motor pool got drunk and began firing off his rifle. The first sergeant came out of his quarters in his bathrobe and walked over to the motor pool. He whacks the guy, grabs the rifle and drags the soldier back to the orderly room. We were outside and we heard all this banging and shouting, `Don't hit me, first sergeant. Don't hit me no more.'

"And more banging. That was how it was done."

"The fear is not there anymore and that's a good thing. We took away inspections. We said the soldier's room is a home and no one had to check every morning. We took away authority but we didn't take away responsibility and some NCOs have trouble understanding the difference. We didn't say you shouldn't check at all. If you have a good soldier, you probably need to check his room once a month or maybe once a year, but there are some soldiers whose quarters should be checked every hour."

"Young people do young things. They do crazy things. You got to let them do their young things. I remember the days when we all hung around the WAC (Women's Army Corps) shack looking for trouble," he laughed. "But my job is caring for them."

"The Army is very different today. Today you have soldiers who e-mail the chief of staff to tell him what they think is wrong with the Army. In my day, you didn't go near the first sergeant or company commander. That would only get you in trouble. Soldiers today aren't afraid to tell anyone what they think."

"Get in here!" Blackmon broke the casual office environment with a bark that is reminiscent of the old Army. In his outer office, standing at ease, were a pair of young soldiers, Robert Eckles and Gary Mallory. They are Specialists E-4. They looked as though they just arrived from some high school in Kansas. It was showtime in the sergeant major's office.

"Come here Eckles. He came into the Army with a master's degree in biology and he came in because he wants to be a scout. This was unheard of when I came in the Army.

"Eckles had a -- Eckles can I tell this?"

"Yes sir! Sergeant Major."

"... birthday and I got a little thing about birthdays so we had a little cake for him and I asked him to say something and he told me nobody had every done anything like that for him. That hit me. That's what the Army's all about to me. I came up without a father, a mother who was an invalid -- COME IN HERE!"

"This is Gary Mallory, master's degree in music. He came in the army and they made him -- we call them cannon cockers -- an artillery man. Well, the cutbacks, they took away the Ft. Carson band. We don't have no music. You know the one thing you associate with a military post is a band playing Sousa and all that. We don't have one anymore. So, I said, Mallory, you's in charge of the Mountain Post Chorus. Now he's got sergeants and captains and whatever taking orders, a private first class in charge of all those people singing."

Mallory spent several years playing in shows and concerts before deciding to join the Army. "I wanted to find a place to settle down," he said. "Besides, the Army is helping me pay off all my student loans and there is an Army tradition in my family."

He executed a perfect about-face and left, while Blackmon continued his discourse on soldiers.

"Not everyone ought to be in the Army. When I find those who should not be I tell them so," said Blackmon, who in his 28 years has put in a tour as an instructor at West Point, picked up a high school diploma and both undergraduate and graduate degrees. "My job is to find out the good things about them and develop the potential in them so that when they leave they will be better prepared for success."

"People get mad because I throw so many retirement parties," he added. "The way I feel is if you been in the Army 20 years somebody here is going to thank you, someone's going to thank you for sleeping out on the cold ground, and staying up nights, and getting shot at and walking patrol and walking guard duty and if you stay long enough without getting cut back and kicked back and everything else, somebody's got to shake your hand."

In February, they lined up to shake Blackmon's hand.

"I had one great trip running around the track for 29 years and the exit gate's there. The nation's been good to me. The Army's been good to me. That has not changed."

Chicago Tribune April 20, 1998

Army enters the day-care era

By F. Richard Ciccone
and Joseph A. Kirby
Tribune Staff Writers

CLARKSVILLE, Tenn. -- Ft. Campbell, home of one of America's proudest fighting divisions, sits along a ridge in the Cumberland Valley where the armies of Ulysses Grant and Nathan Bedford Forrest once dueled and where, in the mist of the false dawn, the sharp bark of command still is heard.

"Jessica, pick up your fruit juice! I'm late."

Jessica is straggling. She toddles over to pick up the plastic bottle bouncing on the parking lot pavement. It is "0-dark-30" in the Army, which is 5:15 a.m. everywhere else in this part of America. But the day-care facility at Ft. Campbell opens at 5 a.m. for the 600 infants and preschoolers whose parents leave them there each day while they practice for war.

Ft. Campbell, which straddles the Tennessee-Kentucky border, is the home of the "Screaming Eagles," the 101st Air Assault Division, one of the Army's rapid deployment fighting units that can move in 18 hours to anyplace on the globe America wants them.

The 101st was born during World War II as a parachute unit whose glory became indelible during the Battle of the Bulge, when it found itself surrounded by the German army at a Belgian town called Bastogne. It was there that Gen. Anthony McAuliffe replied to a Nazi surrender demand with the most memorable one-word remark in U.S. military history: "Nuts!"

But neither McAuliffe nor America's most visionary soldier of the century, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, could have imagined day-care as an integral part of the daily life of the 101st Division.

The Army that MacArthur served from the horse cavalry to the nuclear age was composed of single men who endured the lonely tedium and stern discipline of barracks life for a promise of adventure. They traded and avoided the customs and comforts of civilian society for the camaraderie of warriors and waited for their chance to keep the world safe for democracy.

During two world wars and two Asian conflicts, their ranks were swelled by draftees who adopted their Spartan lifestyle, served their nation, died or departed. There was no need for the Army to be concerned about families.

There was a time, the most senior soldiers recall, when the axiom was, "If the Army wanted you to have a wife, it would have issued you one." They don't, of course, say that out loud these days.

Those were the days of barracks with 30 or 40 bunks packed neatly in long rows and blankets tucked so tightly quarters would bounce. Those were the days when soldiers had to ask permission of their commanding officers before they could marry, and most of the time they didn't get it. The Army wasn't in the business of caring for wives and children.

The Hollywood images of lonely warriors whose boredom was broken only by barroom brawls and clipped dialogue

concerning the latest fancy lady at the string of bordellos bordering the post is as faded as MacArthur's old soldier.

The warrior of today is far from lonely and probably has a second job at Wal-Mart or delivering pizza to pay for a baby-sitter and a movie or the $200 to $300 per month cost of day care. Replacing the "hog shacks" outside the post are the malls, which wait for soldiers' payday just as eagerly as their predecessors, but their trade is in fast food not flesh, jeans not gin.

The volunteer Army and the acceptance of women into the U.S. military ranks coincided with the changing role of women in America in the early 1970s. The feminist movement, the sexual revolution, the two-income family and the career woman has had the same dynamic change on the U.S. Army as it has throughout American society. The traditional housewife and mother is as much a minority in the military as she is everywhere else in America.

There is still the colonel's lady, but she might also be a secretary. There is still the sergeant's wife, but she might be a school teacher or a computer programmer. There is also the sergeant's husband, who might be a construction worker or a computer salesman. There is the captain's wife who might also be a captain.

Nearly two-thirds of the Army is married. There are 70,000 women in today's Army. Most of them are married, and a lot of them are married to other soldiers.

Of the 495,000 soldiers in the Army, 27,000 are married to other soldiers. The Army once was concerned only with the uniformity of its soldiers' looks and lives. Now it is concerned about the many different soldiers and the many different families who provide the warriors.

Nineteen-month-old Leon Patterson is not a warrior yet. He is bundled, barely awake or visible, next to the neck of Capt. Tabitha Patterson, who is already dressed in the camouflage uniform (basic training uniform) she will wear to the early-morning physical training that is as mandatory as when MacArthur entered West Point.

Patterson begins PT at 5:30 a.m. It was her turn to drop off Leon at the Ft. Campbell day-care center. Sometimes he is taken by her husband, also a captain. The Pattersons are a common Army couple, two commissioned officers married to each other. Captains don't always marry captains in the Army, but if they marry another soldier, they almost always marry other officers. It is frowned upon for an officer to marry an enlisted person and is hazardous to both careers.

As Patterson dashes through the day-care parking lot she passes Khali Bellamy, 4, who is not being hurried. He strolls toward the sprawling one-story building munching a piece of bread and holding the hand of his sister, Nakia, 2 1/2. Their father, Wade Bellamy, is out of place in this cluster of basic training uniforms and "ARMY" T-shirts that are optional PT attire.

Dressed in faded Levis and a multicolored shirt, Bellamy clearly is not in synch. He also is not in the Army, but his wife, Hazina, is. She is an E-4 specialist who spent four years in the Marine Corps before switching military loyalties. Bellamy works construction jobs on the post.

"Taking care of kids is my job," he said. "She's got too much to do in the morning. I can drop them off and still have plenty of time to get to work."

Bellamy is a minority at an Army post, a male spouse. "I'm always the guy who's a civilian. Most of the time I'm the only one. It's kind of strange. Everybody is talking about the Army, and I don't have that much to say."

JoAnn Jenkins fits the traditional role. Her husband, Antonio, is a sergeant, but JoAnn is the veteran. She is an "army brat," and she spent the years from kindergarten to 6th grade at Ft. Campbell. "Ft. Hood (Texas) was my father's last post, and it was our first post. For me the Army is like traveling back in time to places I knew."

After dropping Imani, 2, at day care, JoAnn Jenkins does what millions of American wives do. She goes to work. She teaches elementary school.

Many of the women who have entered the Army became acquainted with the military through the Reserve Officers Training Corps, the reserves or National Guard units they may have joined to earn some spare money.

Audra Fisher-Mesa is doing it the other way around. Fisher-Mesa is wearing a basic training uniform when she arrives with Anjelica, 6 months. Her older children are in school. "I'm not active duty. I'm in the National Guard, and this is my two-week camp," she said.

Fisher-Mesa served five years in the Army before deciding that raising a family was too much with both parents in uniform full time. Her husband has been a soldier for 12 years. "He's going to stay for 20. I like the Army, but the kids come first."

Strange as it sounds, the Army agrees.

Maj. Bill Buckner, the Ft. Campbell public information officer, summarizes the new Army's attitude toward families. "If the Army doesn't take care of its soldiers, the soldiers will not stick around. It's not like it was in the past, like when my father was in the military, or when I first joined the Army. It's a very different military now."

One reason the Army has to be concerned about its families is that the modern soldier doesn't sleep in his or her own bed a lot. Since the downsizing of the Army and the end of the Cold War, the Army's mission has evolved into a greater global effort. Some soldiers have been deployed to the Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Liberia or Haiti on peacekeeping chores or mercy missions.

The emphasis on training and education requires soldiers to leave their permanent posts for temporary assignments at other stateside bases, and there still is "going to the field," which might be a week and could be a month.

When the vast majority of soldiers were single, this was not a problem. Now it is one that the Army knows is critical.

Lt. Col. Michael Cardarelli, commander of 3rd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Air Assault Division, is adamant that his soldiers have predictability in their lives. Ft. Campbell implemented a training rotation that allows soldiers to know exactly when they will be scheduled for field duty, when they might have to deploy and when they can tell their spouse they will be home for dinner or pick up the kids after Thursday's soccer game.

There are no more surprise night drills, no punitive weekend mess duty. For that matter, there are no more mess halls; the Army calls them dining facilities. Most bases publish training rotation schedules to ensure that soldiers have a routine.

"That way when the wife or husband knows that you're coming home, you're really coming home," Cardarelli said. "You'll be able to spend those six weeks differently than the six weeks that you'll be on (field duty) assignment -- if a person goes away for the weekend and enjoys themselves on Monday they'll come in more willing to work harder for me knowing that I gave them that time."

Cardarelli, a West Point graduate with a master's degree from Harvard University, doesn't expect his troops to work 50, 60, 70 hours weeks to become better soldiers. He pooh-poohs soldiers who work late, and he never asks them to work on weekends. In fact, Cardarelli said he tries to make sure that everyone under his command takes their annual leave.

"This is a job, just like any other," Cardarelli said. "The only difference is that our job is preparing to go to war."

Ft. Carson, Colo., which is home to several combat and support units, including the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and the 10th Special Forces, schedules a four-day weekend whenever civilians get a three-day break for a national holiday. Additionally, every Thursday the workday ends at 3 p.m. so soldiers can take care of things like getting car insurance or a driver's license renewal or seeing a lawyer about custody problems.

Brig. Gen. Jack Schmitt, deputy base commander, said: "We practice balanced readiness. We must be ready to deploy to any future battlefield,

but we must balance that with quality of life. We've got to take care of our soldiers. The equation will break if you constantly train, constantly deploy, but not take care of the soldier and the soldier's family."

As in Chicago or any of its suburbs, not all families today have mommies and daddies. There are 20,000 single parents in the Army. Some are divorced. Some never married. Sgt. Jody Thornberry is one of them.

The Army has been helpful to Thornberry while she performs her daily duties and raises Chris, 4, and Trey, 2, who follow her into the day-care center. ``When Chris started preschool, my first sergeant gave me the morning off so I could wait with him for the bus."

Thornberry enlisted from her home in Oakland eight years ago and plans to stay for 20 years. But she will have to make a choice that rarely faces even the most career-oriented civilian mother.

``I know I'll eventually get orders to Korea. I'll have to leave the kids somewhere for a year. I know we'll get through it somehow, but it really worries me. Still, it's what the guys have to do."

And sometimes the guys have to do what the women do.

Half the single parents in the Army are men. Specialist Ed Novak, 23, is a single parent who was based at Ft. Carson before transferring to Ft. Gordon, Ga., early in 1998. While at Ft. Carson, he enrolled 2-year-old Nicholas in the day-care center at Ft. Gordon.

``I'm really lucky. Single parents aren't given a priority at the Ft. Carson day-care center, but they are at Ft. Gordon," Novak said. ``The moment I got my orders I called up."

Novak has had custody of Nicholas since he was 11 months old. ``When my wife left, I thought I'd have to get out of the Army, but my NCO (non-commissioned officer) was a single parent himself. He talked to me for a long time and told me that it would be hard, but that I could make it."

Both Thornberry and Novak could be reassured by Master Sgt. Sharon Pierce, a 19-year veteran who spent 10 years as a single parent before remarrying two years ago. Pierce, who is the senior NCO at the Ft. Carson public affairs office, recalled that ``going to Korea was the hardest thing I have ever had to do in my life. My boys were 8 and 2. On Christmas and Thanksgiving I sat in my room and just bawled all day long."

``But I got through it, and the Army experience is one I'd never trade. I've been places I never dreamed I would go. My boys have had more education just by seeing so many places," said Pierce, who has been stationed at Ft. Hood; Ft. Benning, Ga.; Ft. Greeley, Alaska; Ft. Harrison, Ind.; Ft. Carson; and, of course, Korea.

``It (the Army) is a great place to raise children," Pierce added.

It's not a bad place to have them, either, according to Specialist Brenda Jones.

``Being pregnant for me was good," said Jones, who has two children, one 5 and other 4 months. ``They really look out for you when you're pregnant. It's really easy. I didn't have a hard job (personnel clerk), but it all depends on who you work for. Some women say they've had hard times, but not me."

Jones spent two years in the reserves before going on active duty in 1997. Her husband is a civilian. ``That works better than a military husband," she said. ``With two people in the military it's hard with the kids. When they say we got to go, we got to go. I'm prepared because my husband will always be there for the kids."

Sgt. Adrian McGrone, a graduate of Chicago's Jones Commercial High School, met her husband while they were in Germany. He also is a sergeant.

``Nobody bosses anybody," she said with a giggle. ``He's definitely going to stay for 20 if he can. I'd like to make at least 15 years and try for early retirement, but I might stay longer. It's nice to have two incomes. It would be rough without it." The McGrones have two small girls.

A sergeant (E-5) with eight years time in service earns about $1,600 a month.

There are other benefits. ``We have a lot of family time together," she said ``He knows what I go through when he's gone, and I know what he goes through when I'm gone. We have been in situations where we have both been on alert to deploy and we would have to send the girls back home to my mother, or to his mother. That bothers me. We haven't both been away from them for a long period, say, six months. I was away at school in Ft. Bliss for three months, and he had the girls with him in Ft. Huachuca. We are going to Germany (soon), and I'm looking forward to it. I think the girls will have a great experience and at their age probably pick up the language."

The Army tries to keep families together. If two soldiers are married, they both apply for the same duty station. Sometimes that doesn't work, but the Army tries to keep them within a reasonable distance so that marriage can survive.

``It wasn't always like that," Pierce remembered. ``When I was first married, my husband was sent to Germany for 2 1/2 years. I kept waiting for him to return so we could put our family back together. He was on his way back when I got orders to Germany. That was the end of that marriage."

Still, she has no regrets. ``The Army is a great place."

Next: Women in the Army

Army Inc. tries lean with mean

By F. Richard Ciccone
Tribune Staff Writer

Brian Selling is standing in front of a U-shaped conference table surrounded by green tufted leather chairs discussing the organization mission statement, a common practice among big bucks consultants and corporate board chiefs. He is neither of those, but his business card identifies him as a specialist in quality and reinvention.

It also says he is a major in the U.S. Army.

As in private industry, the moderator at such presentations usually only is interrupted by the man who runs the show. In this case it is Jack Schmitt, a crew-cut, articulate executive who discusses the lessons of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, which Fortune 500 CEOs vie for annually. He occasionally interrupts Selling to spice up the presentations with brief asides about ``cultural change," theories on ``cost reductions" and ``cost avoidances," of ``balanced readiness." He refers to the people he serves and supervises as ``customers."

Schmitt is a brigadier general in the Army and the deputy commanding general of Ft. Carson, a sprawling base at the edge of Colorado Springs where 15,000 of his ``customers" are men and women of the Army.

Ft. Carson is the home of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, the 43rd Area Support Group and the 10th Special Forces group, all units ready for deployment to Southeast Asia, Korea, the Middle East and Europe. In the latest Army lingo, Ft. Carson is a ``power projection platform," meaning it can deploy its forces whole or piecemeal, rapidly.

The ``customers" Schmitt talks about include the soldiers based at Ft. Carson, the community of Colorado Springs, the 23,000 retired service personnel who live in the area and just about any unit of the Army that requires whatever services Ft. Carson provides. Colorado Springs also is home to the Air Force Academy and several other military facilities.

What it ultimately is ready to provide is people who kill for a living. That, no matter what 1990s MBA jargon is applied, is what the Army has always been in business to do, and although few of the 495,000 men and women currently serving in the Army have or will ever be expected to kill for duty, honor and country, that is what they prepare for every day of their careers.

But what troubles most Army leaders, officers and noncommissioned officers is the same set of problems that has confronted American business for the last decade: downsizing (``reshaping" in Army lingo), reduced budgets, cuts in research and development, stag-

nant wages, reduced benefits, societal upheavals and the quality of its work force.

Since Ft. Carson is a training and staging base and no longer the home of one of the few remaining elite divisions, there is little here that competes with the external and distinctly macho esprit found on the assault training course at Ft. Campbell, Ky., where the 101st Air Assault Division, the ``Screaming Eagles'' of World War II fame, lives.

The objectives and goals are the same, but the language is different.

``All the services are looking at themselves according to the criteria of the Baldrige program, to improve effectiveness and efficiency of all operations, trying to get more at lower costs,'' said Schmitt, 48, a native of Buffalo, graduate of St. Bonaventure University and holder of a master's degree in systems management from the University of Southern California.

``During the last 18 months we have a made a major effort to look at our installations in every way. We recently submitted an organizational assessment of our installation and were forwarded for the presidential quality award. It's a huge cultural change for the military to do something like this, to reinvent, to reorganize. We have found many cost reductions and cost avoidances. We have partnered with the Air Force to cut the cost of doing business.''

One of the innovations at Ft. Carson is selecting a private contractor to build 1,840 new family housing units on the base and to upgrade the 1,824 existing quarters. The contractor will then operate the housing units as a private business receiving standard military housing and quarters allowance.

``We are trying to move from 17 percent of our married population on base to about 30 percent,'' Schmitt said. About 70 percent of the Army's 300,000 married soldiers live off base. ``If we tried to do something like this on our own it would cost the military, the taxpayers, $150 million. We think this kind of thing is the wave of the future.''

At the podium, Maj. Selling is boasting about the Pinon Canyon base in southeastern Colorado where Ft. Carson units train. He is not talking about the number of troops there but the number of lizards. ``Pinon Canyon is one of greatest environmental successes. Since this land came under military control in 1983, we have protected plant and animal species and have placed an archeologist there to protect Native American and anthropological sites.''

The Army is also concerned about its own environment in the era of downsizing and reduced benefits. The biggest change was the shrinkage of the work force, reducing both the opportunity for promotion and the number of days of deployment.

The deployment, which takes the average Ft. Carson soldier away from home for more than 100 days a year, is what prompted such family-oriented ideas as the four-day holiday, the 3 p.m. closing time on Thursdays and such recreational oases as the Neon Bar, a sports bar with as many screens as anyone could find in Chicago.

The Neon Bar and the Christopher Club are open to civilians and soldiers of all rank, as are the once-restricted officers' clubs, NCO clubs and enlisted men's beer chutes. The egalitarian nature of the Army and changing attitudes toward alcohol have reduced most of these once-crowded drinking redoubts to rarely frequented and rarely profitable operations. The ones that remain popular are those that offer the same kind of promotions and entertainment that soldiers find off base.

Maj. Richard Dumais, garrison commander, said, ``People in the Army were willing to do what is required because there was always that rainbow at the end called retirement. But when you read the paper every day and look at those people who are trying to chop off these benefits, they ask themselves whether that rainbow still will be there. The medical community is being shaken up. Hospitals are downsizing. The secondary mission of taking care of dependents and retirees is changing. The question is whether the temporary sacrifice is worth the rainbow that might not be there.''

Schmitt agrees that many soldiers will not accept the Army's current role and questionable future in terms of payback.

``I have a nephew who went to West Point and is leaving the Army after seven years. He has been deploying 200 days a year and just didn't want to do it for another 15 years.''

So far, the Army remains attractive. Almost half the GIs whose enlistments ended in 1995 signed up for a second hitch. The rate is 72 percent of those considering a third enlistment and after serving 10 years almost everyone aims toward a career of 20 years or more.

But the downsizing has infringed on some of those who want to stay, reducing positions in certain MOS's (military occupational specialities) and blocking promotions.

``If my talents are not needed here, I will take my volunteer spirit to another part of society,'' said Capt. Jean Kobes, Ft. Carson's equal opportunity officer. ``Downsizing has forced me to look at the Army from a different perspective. I came in to do service, not to become a brigadier. But the Army may not need me.''

The Army copied private industry's buyout strategies in the early 1990s to reduce its numbers by offering inducements to leave. It also experienced -- as private companies have -- that not all the right people take the offer.

Far more officers and enlisted personnel with combat MOS's bailed out than those with desk jobs. As a result there is a glut in certain jobs.

``In some MOS's,'' Schmitt said, ``it is much more difficult to get promoted. The administrative areas are very tough. . . . A lot of combat people took early outs, and we have shortages in the infantry MOS. It will take a while for all the aspects of reshaping to level out.''

Defense Week April 20, 1998 Pg. 5

AF Says B-2 Blister Damage Under $500,000

The Air Force said Thursday it will have to spend substantially less than initial estimates of $500,000 to paint blisters on one of its B-2 bombers, saying press reports suggesting it would cost that much were wide of the mark.

The paint blisters are on the surface of the aircraft's leading edge.

Capt. Bruce Sprecher, the 509th Bomb Wing's spokesman, told *Defense Week* Thursday that the damage had indeed occurred.

However, engineers from the Air Force and manufacturer Northrop Grumman are still investigating the cause of the damage, which will reduce the stealthiness of the aircraft.

Last week, several press reports stated the B-2 had suffered a bird or lightning strike, causing up to $2 million worth of damage to the stealth bomber's low-observable composite skin. Sperecher would not provide an estimate.

The B-2 involved—"Spirit of Missouri"—was damaged March 25 while flying a routine training exercise, Sprecher said.

Sprecher made clear that the damaged B-2 was not one of 2 B-2s from 509th's Whiteman AFB that were recently deployed to Guam.

The Air Force last week released a statement saying it was exceptionally pleased with the first operational deployment of B-2 bombers to a forward location outside the

continental U.S.

The B-2 is a multirole bomber, capable of bringing precision weapons delivery and massive firepower anywhere in the world. The bomber's stealth characteristics come from a combination of reduced infrared, acoustic, electromagnetic, visual and radar signatures.

Prior to the Guam deployment, lingering doubts remained about the B-2's low-observable coatings' ability to weather driving rainstorms. At least one of the bombers was exposed to tropical weather in Guam, apparently without ill effect to the aircraft's "skin."

The B-2's stealth characteristics were tested before the aircraft arrived in Guam and after their return to Whiteman. There has been "no significant change upon return to the continental U.S.," said Sprecher.

"The aircraft had no significant change from the predeployment, and the low-observable characteristics were considered fully mission-capable," he added.

The 509th Bomber Wing currently consists of 11 operational B-2's four of which are Block 30s—the newest, most advanced version of the stealth bomber. Ultimately, the Air Force will operate a total of 21 Block 30 B-2s after the turn of the century.

Earlier this year, a congressionally mandated review panel of the Air Force's long-range air-power capabilities determined that the service's fleet of B-2 stealth bombers is sufficient, prompting a statement from Northrop Grumman that it would not be making any more B-2s.

—PATRICK KELLY

Defense News April 20-26, 1998 Pg. 1

F-16 Prevails in Hard-Fought UAE Fighter Buy

By PHILIP FINNEGAN
Defense News Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is preparing to buy up to 80 F-16 fighters valued at $6 billion to $8 billion, with the deal expected to be formalized next month.

Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and deputy chief of the UAE armed forces, will travel here May 12, a visit hosted by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, to announce the final deal, Pentagon and congressional officials here said last week.

Khalifa, who is expected to succeed his father, Sheik Zayed, as UAE president, likely also will meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton during the visit. He will be the highest-ranking UAE official to visit the United States in the country's 27-year history.

The visit to finalize the fighter buy has been planned and repeatedly postponed during the past two years, but planning now is at a more advanced stage, according to a Department of Defense official.

Gen. Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the UAE chief of staff, and William Cohen, U.S. secretary of defense, met April 15 to discuss final details of the sale, as well as the two countries' Iran-Iraq policies, a Pentagon official said April 16.

Brig. Gen. Obaid Humaid bin Abed, the UAE military attaché, did not return an April 16 call to discuss the visit and the looming aircraft sale.

The agreement makes political sense, said Neil Patrick, an analyst with the Royal United Services Institute in London. It could be seen as a way of patching over strained relations between the United States and the United Arab Emirates that emerged earlier this year over U.S.-proposed military action to force Iraqi cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors.

"There is no interest in the United States getting cold feet about its presence in the Middle East," Patrick said April 17. "Signing arms deals helps solidify that presence."

The F-16 has been locked in competition with the Rafale, built by Dassault Aviation, Vaucresson, France, and the Eurofighter, built by a four-nation consortium that includes Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Dassault has not received any notification that anyone has won the competition, Jean-Pierre Robillard, a company spokesman, said April 17.

"We will be amazed if the United Arab Emirates goes for an older plane [like the F-16] rather than a [next-] generation fighter," Locksley Ryan, director of communications for British Aerospace plc, Farnborough, England, said April 17. British Aerospace is a manufacturer of the Eurofighter.

Keith Mordoff, a spokesman for Lockheed Martin Corp., the Bethesda, Md.-based manufacturer of the F-16, refused April 16 to comment on any aspects of the planned sale.

The number of aircraft to be purchased still is not clear, a Pentagon official said. A European industry official, however, noted that in light of a December order for approximately 30 Mirage 2000-9 aircraft valued at $2 billion, it is unlikely the UAE now will be able to contract for all 80 fighters as originally planned.

Buying French and U.S. fighters fits with UAE efforts of not relying on one arms supplier, Digby Waller, an analyst with the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, said April 17.

A series of problems over technology transfer, regional political issues and financial difficulties repeatedly delayed the sale for the past two years.

Now, the electronic warfare suite to be used in the aircraft is the only remaining outstanding question, and that should be resolved by the time of Khalifa's visit, a Pentagon official said.

Although there had been an earlier agreement on the electronic warfare suite, UAE officials revised the requirements to obtain a more capable system, William Rugh, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, said in an April 15 interview.

U.S. government officials have assured their UAE counterparts that Abu Dhabi will have no problem getting other sensitive equipment included in the aircraft package, including the AIM-120 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile and the High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile, Pentagon officials said.

Despite the progress, there nonetheless are other political issues that could delay the purchase further, Rugh said. In the past, the F-16 sale has been delayed by discord over the Middle East peace process and the crisis with Iraq. In addition, UAE leaders are particularly sensitive to any possible negative reaction from Congress.

Selecting one of the three versions of the F-16 offered also has taken time as UAE military leaders evaluated each, including a new version with delta wings, according to a Pentagon official.

Abu Dhabi's ability to move ahead with the purchase at a time when many other Persian Gulf states are reeling from lower oil prices reflects the UAE's relatively strong economy, Rugh said. The United Arab Emirates has been conservative about spending and has not gone into debt, he noted.

Washington Times April 20, 1998 Pg. 10

U.S. denies ambitious role in Colombia

By John Otis
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BOGOTA, Colombia — Analysts across South America are speculating that the United States will take a more active role against this country's leftist rebels and powerful drug cartels — and comparing Colombia's heavily jungled terrain to Vietnam.

The Clinton administration stongly denies having such plans, but a string of guerrilla military victories and the kidnapping last month of four American tourists by the rebels have focused new attention on the conflict.

Last month, the army suffered its worst defeat of the 34-year-old war when guerrillas routed an elite counterinsurgency battalion, killing 63 troops and kidnapping 43.

Such events "are alarming indicators of just how badly the situation has deteriorated," said Gen. Charles Wilhelm, chief of the Miami-based U.S. Southern Command, in testimony last month before the House International Relations Committee. He called Colombia "the most threatened country" in the hemisphere.

"The frightening possibilities of a 'narco-state' just three hours by plane from Miami can no longer be dismissed," said Rep. Benjamin A. Gilman, a New York Republican, who has traveled to Colombia.

Argentine newspapers and radio claimed last week that Gen. Wilhelm queried top military officers from Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina in February about the possibility of forming a multinational peacekeeping force for Colombia.

While there is no evidence such talks took place, Latin American analysts are already drawing parallels with the disastrous U.S. war in Vietnam.

Semana, Colombia's largest magazine, published a cover story last week titled "A New Vietnam?" In a reference to the popular Robin Williams film, the Buenos Aires newspaper Pagina 12 printed a banner headline: "Good Morning, Colombia!"

"No one is plotting a multinational force to go into Colombia," said an exasperated State Department official who spent last week denying such reports. "We don't believe the guerrillas are on the verge of taking over."

A diplomatic source in Bogota insisted "there is no stomach in Washington" for a major anti-guerrilla campaign.

"We are not asking for, nor would we accept, foreign military aid to fight the armed insurgency. We desire international participation to make peace, not to widen the war," added Colombian President Ernesto Samper.

Still, annual U.S. military aid to Colombia has quadrupled in the past three years to $100 million, nearly all of which will go to the National Police for anti-narcotics operations, and that figure is likely to increase in the coming years.

About 200 U.S. trainers rotate through Colombia to operate two radar stations that track suspected drug flights and to perform other duties, while U.S. pilots conduct dangerous low-level flights to fumigate coca fields and opium poppies.

Colombia, meanwhile, is pressing Washington for the purchase of sophisticated Black Hawk and Cobra attack helicopters that would provide cover for soldiers fighting drug traffickers and guerrillas.

When he arrived in Bogota last month, U.S. Ambassador Curtis Kamman said the U.S. government wants "to strengthen the Colombian armed forces in every way." But he added: "We don't have the authorization to enter a campaign against the rebels."

Some analysts say it is impossible to separate the war on drugs from the war on the guerrillas. The cocaine traffickers finance the rebels, who in turn protect the traffickers and the farmers who grow coca plants. Combat in these areas is frequent.

"The bottom line is that the kind of assistance and training [the United States] is providing is just as applicable for counterinsurgency operations," said Coletta Youngers, a senior associate at the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights group. "It is a highly militarized policy."

The diplomatic source acknowledged that, once in the battle zones, the line between fighting narcotraffickers and rebels is often blurred. "If you get shot at, you don't start asking 'Is this a guerrilla or is this a full-fledged narco?' " before returning fire, he said.

The Rebel Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, the largest guerrilla group, which numbers about 10,000, has warned Washington to stay out of the war and has announced that it will target U.S. military personnel in Colombia.

One of the biggest obstacles to a larger U.S. role is the Colombian army, which has the worst record for human rights abuses among Latin American militaries.

U.S. aid to the army has dried up in recent years, although about $20 million in helicopter spare parts and communications gear was approved last month for two newly formed units that are not implicated in abuses.

"Clearly there is a heightened interest and concern . . . but I don't see any quick move to support the Colombian army," said Robin Kirk of Human Rights Watch/Americas. "Even the Republicans are convinced that the army is bad news. . . . There is still a deep level of mistrust."

Wall Street Journal April 20, 1998 Pg. 15

Germany, Britain, France To Order Armored Vehicles

A WALL STREET JOURNAL NEWS ROUNDUP

LONDON—Germany, Britain and France are expected to announce this week an order for 600 armored vehicles following an agreement to include French state-owned Giat Industries in the winning consortium.

The initial order for 600 Multi-Role Armored Vehicles could lead to production of 5,200 vehicles valued at $6 billion, people in the industry said. The MRAV is known as the "battlefield taxi," designed as both a transport vehicle and to provide limited firepower.

The announcement had been delayed pending negotiations with France over how much of the work would go to French industry. Giat makes the Leclerc battle tank and is one of France's major defense contractors.

It had long been expected that the contract would be awarded to the Euroconsortium, led by German main battlefield-tank maker Krauss-Maffei AG, a unit of Mannesmann AG, and the delay isn't expected to affect that decision. The consortium also includes the MAK System GmbH unit of Rheinmetall AG, Wegman & Co. and British group GKN PLC.

Washington Post April 19, 1998 Pg. C6

Iraq: No-Progress Report

SO MUCH FOR the United Nations' victory in winning access to Iraq's "presidential sites." This was the issue, you recall, that stymied U.N. inspections of Iraqi nuclear, chemical and biological weapon capabilities, led to a buildup of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf and culminated last February in a deal negotiated by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein -- a deal portrayed by the Clinton administration as a victory for its combination of diplomacy and show of force.

Now U.N. weapons inspector Charles Duelfer has reported to Mr. Annan. His report notes that Iraq cooperation since the agreement was "satisfactory" and that the presence of senior diplomats, added to inspection teams by order of the Annan-Saddam Hussein agreement, "worked out generally well." But his report also raises questions about who really gained from the months-long crisis Saddam Hussein generated.

The administration said that the presence of diplomats and Mr. Annan's promise to respect Iraq's "national security, sovereignty and dignity" would not make inspections more cumbersome. In fact, Mr. Duelfer says diplomats did at times challenge and argue with U.N. inspectors, "supporting Iraqi views against those of UNSCOM," as the inspection commission is known. "Such problems are likely to reemerge in the future, especially when true no-notice inspections are conducted," he said.

Moreover, Iraqis outnumbered inspectors by ratios of five to one, at times so crowding inspectors that their work was impeded. With 25 U.N. vehicles and 50 or more Iraqi vehicles, "convoys at times exceeded a kilometer in length."

Administration officials insisted in February that, despite new intermediaries reporting to Mr. Annan, Saddam Hussein had not succeeded in undermining the inspectors' authority. But Mr. Duelfer notes that, when Iraqis objected to inspectors' plans at the presidential sites, they engaged directly with Mr. Annan, not with the inspectors. "This has important implications for the authority of UNSCOM and its chief inspectors," Mr. Duelfer says, "and may reflect a fundamental change in the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission."

Having had plenty of time to sanitize the palace sites, Iraqi officials now maintain that they have fulfilled their obligations and may not have to let inspectors back in. As Mr. Duelfer wrote, "One major aspect of the agreement, involving the continuing nature of such access, is still unresolved, merely postponed." Indeed, the Iraqi government this week resumed agitating for a lifting of sanctions and an end to inspections.

It's worth recalling that the point here was not to tour Saddam Hussein's palaces, but to determine whether Iraq -- a defeated aggressor -- had given up its weapons of mass destruction, as promised. Toward that goal almost no progress has been made in the past six months, according to chief U.N. arms inspector Richard Butler; in fact, all evidence points to the contrary. But soon Iraq, its friends and its would-be commercial partners can be expected to resume lobbying for a phony certificate of compliance. The last time that happened, the United States found itself with no appealing options. One wonders whether it is using this interval to put itself in a more advantageous position next time around.

Too Little Cooperation From Iraq

New York Times
April 18, 1998
Pg. 12

It has been eight weeks since Saddam Hussein promised to open a new, more cooperative chapter in Iraq's handling of international weapons inspections. Access has improved somewhat during that time, and the confrontational climate has cooled, but so far little progress has been made toward the central objective of the inspections, which is to rid Iraq of chemical and biological weapons and the means to make them.

The latest report by the chief United Nations weapons inspector, Richard Butler, makes clear that Iraq is still not fulfilling its international obligations. The recent admission of inspectors to previously off-limits presidential complexes was helpful. But Iraq was merely backing off from obstruction rather than providing the comprehensive cooperation needed to determine whether Baghdad has abandoned efforts to build nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and missiles capable of carrying them.

Iraq is obliged to provide Mr. Butler with information about its weapons programs, not just to refrain from interfering with inspections. For the most part, Iraq's performance over the past six months has been marred by repeated interference and provocations.

The inspections of the presidential complexes let U.N. investigators learn the layout of these buildings and spot potential hiding places. But Iraq had plenty of time to cleanse the premises of incriminating evidence. Iraqi monitors shadowed the investigators and argued with them over demarcation lines of the complexes and the terms for follow-up inspections.

Grim new details emerged this week of a campaign by Iraq to terrorize its people through hundreds of politically motivated executions. Under such chilling conditions, no official is likely to cooperate with the U.N. Security Council unless President Hussein himself orders it. Instead the rhetoric from Baghdad has again turned threatening, demanding an early end to sanctions and warning of new crises. Mr. Hussein can threaten all he wants, but sanctions will not be lifted until the Security Council is satisfied that Iraq has given up its weapons of mass destruction.

Baltimore Sun April 19, 1998

Taking war crimes seriously Bosnia

Two arrests by NATO troops suggest that the world is closing in on justice.

THE CAPTURE of two accused war criminals by NATO forces in Bosnia brings to 25 the number in custody of 74 indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

Both men held command positions at a camp where scores of Muslim and Croat captives were tortured, raped, maimed and murdered in 1992. If the accused can be tried fairly and quickly, word will get out that crimes defined by the U.N. Convention on Genocide are not only wrong but punishable.

The movement to create a permanent international criminal court, which the United States supports, is getting ahead of itself. The world has to show that it can use and not abuse such institutions. The attempt to try war criminals linked to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda has been discouraging.

At first mocked by Bosnian Serb nationalists, the NATO peacekeeping forces, operating under United Nations and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) auspices, are now being taken more seriously. But the war crimes tribunal will not prove its credibility until the two biggest fish indicted in 1995, Bosnian Serb political leader Radovan Karadzic and military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic, are arrested. They have mocked the threat, but no longer. Dr. Karadzic has disappeared and is reportedly negotiating conditions for his surrender.

Revenge is not the purpose of the war crimes exercise. The goal is to create a deterrent to other such crimes. Having started the tribunal, the world community must make justice effective.

San Diego Union-Tribune April 19, 1998

Shortchanging defense

An overstretched, underfunded military

The Clinton administration insists America's shrinking armed forces can do more with less, and without sacrificing essential combat readiness and equally necessary weapons modernization.

But that pledge isn't being met. Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon acknowledged in an interview that modernization programs are in grave trouble and that "readiness is a serious concern, both in the short term and the long term." At present budget levels, Bacon admits, the Pentagon cannot afford its planned weapons programs.

Too little money for modernization is a critical problem for the future. Declin-ing readiness is a growing problem now. In the Army and Air Force, in particular, the lack of resources is sharply eroding combat capabilities.

The Navy and Marine Corps are managing to cope for the moment, but just barely, and only by drawing down units not actually on active deployments. These readiness deficiencies have been documented recently by the General Accounting Office of Congress, the House National Security Committee and a flood of anecdotal accounts from the forces.

A GAO investigative report, released March 20, detailed a shocking decline in the Army's readiness to fight. At least half the Army's 10 combat divisions suffer from crippling shortages of infantry, noncommissioned officers, captains, majors and personnel skilled in technical specialties. The Army's last combat divisions in Europe, the 1st Armored Division and 1st Infantry Division, have been drained by the Bosnia peacekeeping commitment and are now rated as combat ineffective.

The Air Force's shortages of spare parts are cutting aircraft readiness rates and forcing cannibalization of some planes to keep others flying. More ominously, the Air Force is suffering an unprecedented exodus of expensively trained fighter pilots. Readiness rates for ships and air units not actually on deployment have also dropped markedly. And the Navy, too, is experiencing a crippling fall in retention rates for pilots, including mid-career aviators needed as squadron and air wing commanders.

Two causes of declining readiness are obvious: Money and proliferating assignments for what the Pentagon describes as "operations other than war," meaning peacekeeping and assorted hu-manitarian missions.

As the accompanying chart shows, the Clinton administration's fiscal 1998 Pentagon budget of $260 billion marks the 13th consecutive year of declining defense spending. Meanwhile, an American military a third smaller than it was in 1990 is stretched ever thinner. U.S. forces have been deployed in 36 foreign operations during the 1990s, nearly double the total for the 1980s. Falling morale, inadequate pay (12,000 military families are on food stamps), fewer health-care benefits, poor housing and time away from families are stressing the all-volunteer force.

What's more, the U.S. military's ability to fight two nearly simultaneous regional wars -- the officially stated requirement -- is a polite fiction. Granted, America's military no longer needs the forces and budgets required for the Cold War. What it does need, however, are resources adequate to its assigned missions now. The grim news on weapons modernization and readiness shows clearly that what it is getting is not enough.

Washington Times April 20, 1998 Pg. 6

INSIDE THE RING

by Ernest Blazar

A Navy leader

The U.S. Navy risks disaster unless it immediately becomes quicker and leaner.

An alarming assessment of the nation's oceangoing fighting force? Yes, but even more so because of who is making the charge: J. Paul Reason, the four-star admiral in command of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

He didn't write this in a secret memo to his Pentagon bosses. It wasn't leaked from an e-mail message. In fact, Adm. Reason wants everybody to know. That is why he published this month a blueprint for saving the Navy.

Called "Sailing New Seas," the paper has been released by the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

The Atlantic Fleet chief begins with a warning: The Navy is "anchored in the strong holding ground of our successful past, yet already we feel and see the leading indicators of a storm that threatens to wreck us at our hard-won anchorage. We face not a small squall and some temporary discomfort, but a typhoon more ominous than any we have encountered since 1944. This time it is a typhoon of change."

To survive, he says the Navy must re-create itself before the storm's fury arrives. Not only must the Navy learn to think, fight, design and build ships, submarines and planes, and project combat power faster, it must commit itself to the task now. "The real challenge facing the Navy is not so much to determine what its problems are and how to solve them, but to do what needs to be done."

The monograph is co-authored by David G. Freymann, a retired Navy commander and Navy consultant. It is available on the Internet at www.usnwc.edu/nwc/np13toc.htm.

It is unusual for top officers like Adm. Reason to author such works while still on active duty, especially to offer advice on subjects beyond their immediate command. The Navy's top officer, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jay Johnson, a flier, has not read the paper. But an aide told Inside the Ring that Adm. Johnson took part in the talks that led to Adm. Reason's work.

"Sailing New Seas" is the boldest and most credible vision yet for leading the post-Cold War, cash-strapped and dwindling fleet to smooth waters.

With its bow already thrust into the information age, the Navy still must pull the rest of itself — fleets, headquarters, staffs, strategies, organization and thinking — out of the old industrial age, the authors argue. In its present form, the Navy is "unsuited to operations at the edge of chaos," a defining characteristic of future wars. Consequently, an unchanging Navy is "rapidly becoming obsolete."

No longer can the service rely on flush Pentagon coffers to plug leaks in strategy, technology or thinking, writes Adm. Reason. "The days of plenty are long gone." And if the Navy fails in the task he describes, then other powers are poised to challenge American naval hegemony.

"Those who have been at sea on the ships of other excellent navies know that in some regards the pre-eminence of the U.S. Navy is already being challenged in quality though not [yet] in quantity."

He said during an interview last week that he decided to make public his thoughts, not because a fight for reform was lost inside the Navy, but because of the need to launch a wide and public debate.

"It is not an attempt to go outside the Navy to garner support

for ideas that are not popular within," said Adm. Reason, a surface ship officer trained in naval nuclear propulsion. He ran his ideas past Adm. Johnson and Pacific Fleet Chief Adm. Archie Clemins, a submariner, he says. "There is so much in the air, so many things we can't handle on a piecemeal basis."

Among his key recommendations:

• **Smaller and cheaper** — The Navy should consider moving away from an overreliance on "Death Star" megawarships that, because of price, can only be purchased in small numbers. Adm. Reason points to the Navy's experience in fighting Latin American air and naval drug smugglers with big and costly warships. "The degree of [U.S.] success does not come close to justifying the cost. Cheaper and simpler systems in larger quantities often prove to be more effective as well as more economical."

• **Unify** — The Navy can no longer afford to be divided against itself: submarines vs. fliers vs. surface ship sailors. Years ago, when officers became admirals, they stopped wearing their aviation, surface-ship or submarine-warfare specialty pins to emphasize their first loyalty to the Navy as a whole. It is time to return that spirit to the fleet, Adm. Reason argues.

"Some excellent sailors may be unable to make this adjustment. Over the years they have developed an intense loyalty to the tools of their trade, often at the expense of higher loyalty to the Navy, but now it is time for them to go."

• **Flatten and decentralize** — New technologies allow local naval forces to be more effective than ever, giving the Navy a chance to flatten its command structure by paring away middle management. Yet, the admiral warns that new kinds of communication tools are tempting top officers to snatch the reins of command from on-scene commanders.

"The 'beat' of the battlefield, in business or war, cannot be fully communicated to a decision maker — a 'big wheel' — at a headquarters. The smells, the tensions, the noises, the pulse, the feel, the events unconsciously seen and recorded peripherally — all these cannot be verbalized or digitized, transmitted, and reconstituted accurately, completely, and quickly enough."

With the front edge of the storm now lashing the Navy, the admiral says the time has come to weigh anchor. Already, the service risks foundering. Should those who are able to help guide the way freeze at their stations, the admiral writes grimly, "then powder and shot should not be spared."

• *Ernest Blazar can be reached at 703/486-3949 and blazar@twtmail.com.*

Cohen urges pressure on Baghdad arms policy

Boston Globe
April 19, 1998
Pg. 25

Reuters

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey - Defense Secretary William S. Cohen yesterday visited US fliers policing a "no-fly" zone over northern Iraq and said the world must keep pressure on Baghdad over deadly chemical and biological arms.

He spoke after UN weapons inspectors reported this week that they had made little progress over the past six months in verifying that Iraq had destroyed any remaining weapons of mass destruction after the 1991 Gulf War, a key condition for lifting sanctions against Baghdad.

Cohen flew to this base in southern Turkey from Ankara on the second day of a tour of southern Europe and the Middle East to cement ties with NATO allies Turkey and Greece and reassert US support for the stalled Middle East peace process.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him, he said it was not enough for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein just to open his palaces and other sites to UN weapons inspectors, he must provide solid proof that he had destroyed all chemical and biological arms.

"He has an obligation to show proof positive of where, when, how and under what circumstances the materials were destroyed," Cohen said.

More than 50 US, Turkish, and British warplanes, most of them American, fly daily out of this base to assure compliance with UN orders for Iraq's military not to attack Kurds in northern Iraq.

American jets based in several Gulf states and on two aircraft carriers in the Gulf patrol a similar "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq set up after the 1991 Gulf War.

Cohen and US officials have warned repeatedly that although Iraq recently allowed UN arms inspection teams into previously forbidden sites to search for weapons of mass destruction, Baghdad has not provided proof that it has ended it program to develop such arms.

Washington Post April 19, 1998 Pg. 27

Iraqi Asks U.N. to Lift Sanctions

By Christine Hauser
Reuters

CAIRO, April 18—Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Sahhaf said today that Iraq had met the requirements of U.N. resolutions and now had the right to ask for an end to nearly eight years of sanctions.

Sahhaf also said a new report on arms inspections in Iraq was unfounded and he would present the facts to the United Nations.

He told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa that Iraq "has stuck to Security Council decisions and has implemented all their essential requirements." He added, "It is Iraq's right to ask for an end to the sanctions." Under the U.N. Security Council's terms, Iraq must satisfy U.N. weapons inspectors that it has no more weapons of mass destruction before the sanctions can be lifted.

Earlier, after meeting Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdel-Meguid, Sahhaf had said that the latest report on the U.N. inspections had nothing new.

Sahhaf also met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today and was due to travel to New York on Sunday.

He conveyed a message to Mubarak from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein dealing with the inspections conducted since a February accord between Iraq and U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan. Under the accord, Iraq ended its ban on U.N. Special Commission inspectors entering "presidential sites," and allowed them to go in accompanied by diplomatic observers. The deal was widely seen as averting a military strike the United States had threatened to unleash on Iraq to make it meet U.N. demands.

The U.N. report said the inspectors had made "virtually no progress" in the past six months in verifying that Iraq had destroyed any remaining

weapons of mass destruction.

Richard Butler, head of the weapons inspection team, said in an interview published today that Iraq had breached the agreement to declare details about its biological weapons.

"They have had an opportunity in the past month since Annan's visit to offer a full and complete declaration of past bio-weapons programs and where they stand now," Butler told the Age, a Melbourne, Australia, newspaper, in a telephone interview.

"We gave them the opportunity and they blew it," he was quoted as saying in the report published on the Internet.

Butler, an Australian diplomat, said he would present the report of his team's investigations to the United Nations on Thursday. He said it would raise the same concerns as those in a report six months ago.

"The last time we released a report like this, it triggered the crisis in the Gulf," he said.

U.S. News & World Report
Apr. 27, 1998 Pg. 7
WASHINGTON WHISPERS

The real battle

With the White House asking Congress for a record $6.7 billion to fight terrorism, turf wars are escalating across Washington. FBI officials are angry at the Secret Service, which is making a bid to oversee security at Olympic Games and other special events.

The Army Reserve is angry with the National Guard for ignoring Army resources in planning how to respond to a biochemical attack in the United States. And the National Security Council, which proposes to create its own terrorism czar, is drawing fire from Justice and the Pentagon for what officials at both departments see as an NSC power grab.

As agencies begin lobbying appropriations committees, the battles are bound to intensify. But the bureaucrats may have little to fear from a Congress anxious to show that it's tough on terrorists. "If the program has terrorism in the title," complains one insider, "it will get funded."

New York Times April 19, 1998

Clean Bill for Iraqis on A-Arms? Experts Upset

By Barbara Crossette

UNITED NATIONS -- The International Atomic Energy Agency is moving close to declaring Iraq free of nuclear weapons, and some American experts are raising alarms and charging the agency with complacency. They say Iraq's record of deception and its wealth of talented scientists point to both the intention and ability to recreate an atomic program quickly.

Iraq "has already learned enough to be able to build a nuclear weapon in less than a year," David Albright, president of the independent Institute for Science and International Security in Washington and a former inspector for the agency in Iraq, wrote in the May-June issue of The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. All that is required is enough enriched uranium or plutonium, which are available on the black market, he said.

In a report the week before last, the agency said Iraq had successfully compiled a "full, final and complete" account of its past nuclear weapons programs. It also said that "the agency's ongoing monitoring and verification activities carried out since October 1997 have not revealed indications of the existence in Iraq of prohibited equipment or materials or of the conduct of prohibited activity."

Since 1991, when the U.N. Security Council ordered the complete destruction of prohibited weapons in Iraq after the Persian Gulf War, the agency has handled the nuclear work while the U.N. Special Commission has dealt with biological, chemical and missile programs. The commission has been more critical and suspicious of the Iraqis in its reports.

Michael Krepon, president of the Henry L. Stimson Center, an arms and military research institute in Washington, said that more acute concerns about biological and chemical weapons were widespread, given the speed with which they could be assembled and used.

"The consensus is that one cannot close any book when we're talking about Saddam Hussein's ambitions," he said in an interview. "However, in the nuclear area, it will take him a lot longer than for chemical and biological weapons."

U.S. government assessments of Iraqi abilities say that biological weapons could be ready in "days and weeks," Krepon said. Chemical weapons could be reconstituted in months, but nuclear weapons could take years, assuming that the program is home-grown and not supplied by the black market.

In an interview Thursday, Albright, who worked with the IAEA, a U.N. agency, from 1992 to 1997 and was part of a team in Iraq in 1996, said the absence of suspect nuclear activity now means very little where the Iraqis are concerned. In his article in The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, he recounted a long history of elaborate Iraqi deceptions and occasional confessions made only because Baghdad had been trapped by evidence from outside, from defectors or the investigative work of arms inspectors.

"I'm worried that the IAEA might close off the historical question too quickly," he said.

Albright proposes that the United States and others find a way to get Iraqi scientists and their families out of the country, where they are virtual prisoners, unable to leave even by paying the high fees the government charges emigrants.

"A more effective way needs to be found to monitor the scientists from Iraq's previous program," he said. "To render that program harmless, it would be wonderful to get the key scientists out."

In March, Iraq was reported to have arrested a scientist widely regarded as the father of its germ weapons program as he was preparing to leave the country.

Paul Leventhal, president of the Nuclear Control Institute, a nonprofit organization in Washington that campaigns against the spread of nuclear weapons and technology, criticized the agency's report, saying it glossed over still-missing links in the Iraqi nuclear program about which almost nothing was known until after the 1991 war. The information still being withheld includes old bomb designs and other documentation, he said.

"The IAEA report should be viewed with disbelief," he said in an interview. "The agency has been consistently wrong on the subject of Iraq. You have to assume that a nuclear weapon remains Saddam's ultimate prize. It is also prudent to assume that there is a small workable weapons project in Iraq."

Leventhal said that he took as a given that Iraq was trying to find sources of bomb-making material on the black market.

In his article, Albright wrote that an Iraqi official had told him in 1996 that over 10 years Iraq had received more than 200 offers to buy everything from component materials to fully assembled nuclear weapons, but had not followed up leads, fearing a sting.

Los Angeles Times
April 19, 1998

Parading Troops Reviewed by Hussein

From Times Wire Reports

Thousands of paramilitary troops organized during the U.N. weapons inspection standoff marched through Baghdad in a show of might and defiance toward the United States. Brandishing assault rifles, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children in khaki, pea green or mottled commando fatigues marched in squads of about 100 across Grand Festivities Square. President Saddam Hussein, seen reviewing the parade in civilian clothes, called on able-bodied Iraqis early this year to sign up for military training to face up to any "American aggression."

European Stars & Stripes April 18, 1998 Pg. 7

NATO vows no war crimes 'witch hunt'

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Thursday said Bosnian war crimes suspects should be arrested but that NATO peacekeepers would not engage in a "witch hunt" for them.

Earlier this month, the NATO-led peace force arrested two Bosnian Serbs suspected of prison camp atrocities. The men were transferred to the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, set up in The Hague, Netherlands.

Shelton, on a visit to the Danish capital, said he wanted to see more war crimes suspects, including former Bosnian Serbian leader Radovan Karadzic, in custody.

"We have not turned it into a witch hunt. If we get in contact with them, we plan to arrest them and transport them to the Hague. And that includes Karadzic," Shelton said.

NATO, which currently leads a 35,000-member international peace force in Bosnia, has said that troop reductions could begin late in the year, as the political situation in Bosnia stabilizes.

"At some point we can reduce our military presence and at some point end up in an observer status, and then ultimately we'll be in a monitoring status," Shelton said. "How long that takes is up to ... the international community."

Continuing a European tour, Shelton planned to visit Macedonia before meeting NATO partners in Germany.

Hunting war criminals? Here's how to find them

European Stars & Stripes April 19, 1998 Pg. 7

WASHINGTON (AP) — Criticizing NATO and the U.S. military over the failure to arrest accused war criminals, an international panel has given the White House the names and addresses of 40 people it said could be seized.

"If the United States demands that all these people have to be arrested, a way would be found to make it happen," said Morton Halperin, vice president of the Century Foundation-Twentieth Century Fund, which organized the study.

The 350-page report released Friday featured data on the whereabouts of the accused such as home addresses, names of frequent contacts and restaurants regularly visited by some.

Halperin said the U.S. military has taken an untenable stance in its failure to capture more accused Bosnian Serbs.

"They are not going to arrest criminals because it's a dangerous thing to do," he said.

Clinton administration officials say NATO forces, including U.S. troops, have no U.N. mandate to pursue accused war criminals in Bosnia.

They have refused to say whether they know the locations of those indicted. NATO says it will arrest any war criminals it happens upon as part of regular peacekeeping duties.

More than two dozen suspects have given themselves up or been apprehended. One, a Serb, was killed while resisting arrest.

The report acknowledges some progress. But it also provides information that task force members believe NATO is ignoring in failing to arrest top indicted Bosnian Serbs, notably former President Radovan Karadzic and military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic.

"There can be neither lasting peace nor an end to the long national nightmare in Bosnia until all war criminals are arrested and brought to justice," the report said.

The report came amid speculation that Karadzic might be ready to surrender.

U.S. officials have refused to comment on whether there is any extra effort to bring him to justice.

Karadzic is believed to be in Bosnia, but Mladic has been seen several times recently in Serbia.

Both were indicted in November 1995 for genocide in the massacre of thousands of Muslims after Bosnian Serbian forces captured Srebrenica, which had been designated as a U.N. "safe zone."

Talks Between Koreas Collapse in Mutual Blame

New York Times April 19, 1998

By Erik Eckholm

BEIJING -- The first direct talks in four years between North and South Korea collapsed on Saturday, with each side blaming the other.

The talks began here last Saturday, and North Korea, which has a severe shortage of food and little money, asked South Korea to provide 100 million tons of chemical fertilizers. The South Koreans hoped to arrange for the reunion of aging family members split by the 1945 partition of the Korean peninsula, a division hardened by the Korean War in 1950-53.

The two countries have been antagonistic for more than half a century, but some experts thought a modest breakthrough might be possible now because North Korea is in desperate need and because South Korea's new president, Kim Dae-jung, had vowed to improve relations.

But in the end, neither side budged from its political agenda. South Korea, which is wary about helping an aggressively hostile neighbor, firmly tied technical aid to progress on the broader issues it cares most about, including establishment of a family-reunion center and regular, formal diplomatic contacts.

The communist government of North Korea has preferred to keep its people isolated from South Korea, which as a capitalist ally of the West has been transformed into a prosperous country, although it has recently suffered serious economic setbacks.

In the talks of the past week, North Korea agreed in principle to later talks between Red Cross officials about family reunions. But it refused to set a date, and the South Koreans in turn refused to proceed with fertilizer and other economic aid.

On Saturday, North Korea's negotiator, Chun Kum-chul, told reporters that "the South Korean administration is using fertilizer as a means of political provocation." He said aid should be provided without preconditions.

South Korea's envoy, Jeong Se-hyun, said: "The North kept repeating their stance that the donation of fertilizer would lead to the solution of all other issues, but avoided making any clear commitment to a schedule."

He told reporters that North Korean officials had called off the current talks late Friday night, canceling a scheduled Saturday morning discussion. He said that both sides "hope to restart talks" in the future.

Chicago Tribune April 19, 1998

Pentagon's Multibillion-Dollar Bungling Lost In Starr's Glare

James Warren

WASHINGTON -- While the media massed outside the courthouse for a career update from Kenneth Starr, a congressional hearing was drawing flies despite disclosures of billion-dollar bungling.

Welcome to the capital, where 90 percent of the media tends to cover 10 percent of the news.

A House subcommittee learned Thursday about the one army the Defense Department could not vanquish, namely one from H & R Block or Ernst & Young. Its accounting ineptitude leaves it missing billions of dollars and not knowing the whereabouts of missile systems, aircraft and boats.

Perhaps they're in the hands of foreign governments or really bad guys?

The subject was broached during a head-turning colloquy seemingly missed by even the few newsies who surfaced for a session reported on briefly by ABC's "World News with Peter Jennings" and The Associated Press and, according to staffers, nobody else.

The General Accounting Office, as part of the first government-wide financial audit, concludes that the Pentagon's auditors "could not be relied upon to provide basic information" regarding the existence, location and value of much of its $635 billion in property, plant and equipment.

That includes arcana such as missile launchers ($1 million apiece), tugboats (nearly $1 million a pop), F-18 engines ($4 million each), as well as grenades, industrial diamonds, computers, planes, boats, landing gear, hydraulic pumps and rocket motors, to name a few.

Oh, throw in 200 cruise missiles only now just accounted for (they had been destroyed "years ago as part of a treaty with the Soviet Union," reports the GAO).

With Congress still on recess, just two committee members showed: Chairman Steve Horn (R-Calif.), a farm boy and Harvard-trained political scientist who worked for Sen. Everett Dirksen whom he helped draft the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio), the onetime "boy mayor" of Cleveland.

Near the end, Kucinich asked whether any of the audit's findings about missing military equipment were classified.

"You mean in terms of any items that might have been diverted?" asked David Warren, who heads national security and international affairs for the GAO.

Yes, Kucinich responded, has the Central Intelligence Agency ever been involved in trying to figure out where stuff wound up?

"The answer would be yes, but I really couldn't go any further on classified."

"Well, you've answered my question by saying yes," Kucinich said.

The dialogue went on and involved Gene Dodaro, assistant comptroller general of the GAO, and Eleanor Hill, the Pentagon's inspector general. By the end, you were left with the distinct notion that Pentagon hardware may have wound up in the hands of bad guys and that administrative incompetence makes it hard to account for what's missing.

I wondered if I was nuts the next day, having by then read the hearing transcript but not having seen a word about any of this. Kucinich said no, that I was the first person to ask about a matter which he found "mind-boggling."

"The Pentagon tries to blow off this stuff as a paper problem. But weapons systems are missing, and questions about national security and foreign policy are raised.

"Consider the illegal transfer of arms in Iran-contra," he said. "Then look here: You don't even need to go through the steps Oliver North went through. All you need is to lose some paperwork. Weapons may be falling into the hands of foreign entities. It may dwarf Iran-contra."

A series of GAO reports dwarf previous claims of federal ineptitude or stupidity. Forget about $600 toilet seat covers. On Thursday, the Pentagon's chief financial officer revealed that there are more than $10 billion in "problem disbursements," a lovely euphemism for payments that can't be matched against contracts.

But if the Pentagon is the prime offender, it is far from alone. After having combed through several hundred pages of GAO reports and congressional transcripts, I offer a few highlights:

-- The Housing and Urban Development Department spends $18 billion a year in annual rent and operating subsidies. But $1 of every $18 is being paid out unjustifiably, given poor accounting.

-- Financial management is so poor at federal credit agencies, "the true cost of the federal government's loan and guarantee programs cannot be reliably determined," the GAO says.

-- The Federal Aviation Administration's records on $5.5 billion in equipment and property are unreliable. "For example, $198 million in recorded assets no longer existed, $245 million in spare parts were omitted from the financial statements; and $3.3 billion in works-in-process could not be verified."

-- The Forest Service lacks "a reliable system for tracking its reported 378,000 miles of roads, which GAO determined exceeds the mileage of the national highway system." After starting its own inventory count, the service has only now "identified $1.3 billion of roads in one region alone (the Pacific Northwest) that had not been previously recorded."

It's child's play compared to the Pentagon.

"During my previous testimony, I recounted that as long as 213 years ago, the Congress and the military establishment had been debating the need for adequate audit trails for military expenditures," Hill said.

"Unfortunately, we are now going on 217 years, and the department still cannot provide you an acceptable accounting of expenditures."

Cheery.

After Dodaro did his thing, Horn was justifiably quizzical about many matters, including the question of precisely how many accounting systems the Pentagon has.

"When we held this hearing several years ago, I would swear on 20 Bibles that I was told there were 49 different accounting systems. When I mentioned this the other day to the representatives of the General Accounting Office, I was told there were several hundred accounting systems."

Hill's formal statement said the Pentagon's plan was to "reduce accounting systems and cut 82 down to 15." But Nelson Toye, the Pentagon's deputy chief financial officer, said there were 100 systems and the aim was to cut down from 100 to 23 by the year 2003.

Please, please, said Horn, could somebody finally give him the correct answer?

"A hundred and twenty-two, I think, right now," Hill said.

More telling was the general Pentagon thrust in rationalizing the mess it represents. The line goes like this: We're fighters, not accountants. The nation should be worried about the quality of our fighting force, not whether we can't keep track of anything.

"Yeah, I know," Horn said Friday when asked about the Pentagon approach. "It's a smart-ass answer, frankly."

He suggested they find a few master sergeants and chief petty officers. "They usually know how to solve those problems."

As for Kucinich, he was still taken aback by the possibility that military equipment has been lost to forces, good or bad, overseas and that the CIA may well know. "It's mind-boggling. We're talking boats, planes, grenades and weapons systems, missing and unaccounted for, in amounts that just dwarf the imagination."

Sounded like a good story to Kucinich, even if the Washington press corps was uninterested, at least on a huge news day when the Whitewater independent counsel disclosed he would not take a law school job in California.

"I guess the problem was

that all this (the hearing) happened as everybody was camped out, waiting for a breathless announcement from Kenneth Starr."

Washington Post April 20, 1998 Pg. 17

In the Loop

By Al Kamen

Going Private

One of the earliest Clintonites at the Pentagon, Lou Finch, deputy undersecretary for readiness, who came over from the Hill with former secretary Les Aspin, is moving on. Finch, who worked for Rand Corp. on the West Coast and was at State and the Congressional Research Service, is settling in at a high-tech consulting firm in Fairfax.

Washington Times April 18, 1998 Pg. 2

Pentagon rejects a role for State in weapons review

By Bill Gertz
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A top defense official has curtly rejected a plan by arms-control director John Holum to give the State Department a major role in determining whether future weapons systems are legal with international treaties, a Pentagon document shows.

Walter B. Slocombe, undersecretary of defense for policy, said in a letter that he has "studied carefully" Mr. Holum's proposal, which defense critics say would greatly complicate weapons development by adding a new layer of bureaucratic obstacles that could lead to extra costs and delays.

"On balance, I believe the system we have works quite well," Mr. Slocombe said in the April 9 letter. "As a result, I do not believe we should modify, and I do not believe, in particular, that the [Verification Compliance Analysis Working Group] should be placed in an oversight role in the Department of Defense compliance process."

The verification group is under the control of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which Mr. Holum heads.

Mr. Slocombe went on to assure Mr. Holum, who is also the nominee for undersecretary of state for arms control, that other agencies will be kept "appropriately informed" about all Pentagon weapons reviews and decisions.

Mr. Holum wrote to Mr. Slocombe on March 12, proposing that "my office" get a key role in weapons-development reviews. And he proposed letting the State Department approve all Pentagon compliance decisions in advance to "avoid unexpected diplomatic and policy consequences."

The compliance-review group is made up of Pentagon specialists who determine whether weapons programs comply with treaties.

Jacques Gansler, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and the official directly in charge of compliance decisions, said Thursday that Mr. Slocombe's position "makes sense."

"The current process is working pretty well; why make it more encumbered?" he asked.

The compliance-review process touched off an interagency dispute over missile defenses in 1994. Mr. Holum at that time asked the Pentagon to halt development of the Theater High-Altitude Area Defense anti-missile system during negotiations with Moscow on the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

His request was rejected because the compliance-review group had declared the system legal under the ABM treaty, and any delays would have slowed a system needed by U.S. forces to counter the threat of short-range missiles, officials said.

Defense officials said Mr. Holum's proposal appears to be an effort by State to control the compliance-review group.

"We don't believe it is a good idea to delegate to some interagency working group, headed by a midlevel arms controller, the right to decide how a system will be procured or not procured," one official said.

Arms-control officials could use their position in the review group to block Pentagon weapons programs for nondefense reasons, such as to allay foreign government concerns, a second official said.

Mr. Holum declined to comment yesterday when asked if he would continue to press for changes in the compliance-review system.

He has denied his plan would put the State Department or arms agency in the middle of the Pentagon weapons reviews, but said he wanted to "see if we can't coordinate things better."

Some Pentagon officials complain the current compliance-review process is too political and has led to forcing changes to weapons that are not needed or diminishing their effectiveness.

One example is the Pentagon's new Long Range Air-Launched Target (LRALT), being built to test short-range missile defenses.

Although the target is not a strategic weapon defined by the START arms treaty, the Pentagon required adding a wing to it to avoid Russian challenges.

Mr. Gansler said adding the wing avoids treaty snags.

David J. Smith, an ex-U.S. arms negotiator, told the Senate Armed Service Committee last month the wing will add "considerable cost" and limit performance.

He said the government cannot reach "internal agreement to ... the obvious fact that the LRALT would not be a 'weapon-delivery vehicle' and therefore not be subject to the START treaty," he said.

Wall Street Journal April 20, 1998 Pg. 1

Pol Pot's death doesn't ensure political stability for Cambodia, according to the U.S. envoy to the U.N., who is visiting the region to press an ousted co-premier's bid to run in a July election. Khmer Rouge guerrillas rejected pleas for an autopsy and cremated Pol Pot's body Saturday, bolstering suspicions he was killed or committed suicide.

Israel welcomed British Prime Minister Blair, who is trying to restart stalled peace talks with Palestinians. An Israeli settler was killed by Palestinian gunmen just before his arrival. Meanwhile, Israel released two more members of a radical PLO faction who had been held for years without trial.

Sailors refuse anthrax vaccine

14 disciplined by Navy on Persian Gulf ships; they fear side effects

Baltimore Sun
April 19, 1998
Pg. 1

By Tom Bowman
Sun National Staff

WASHINGTON -- A growing number of U.S. sailors in the Persian Gulf are refusing to be vaccinated against the deadly biological agent anthrax out of concern about possible side effects and long-term health risks, according to family members and their advocates.

The Pentagon announced last year that it would require, over a six-year period, that every member of the armed forces -- 1.4 million active-duty forces and 1 million reservists -- be vaccinated against anthrax. Troops in the gulf are receiving the first vaccinations because Iraq is thought to have stockpiled enough anthrax for germ warfare.

Pentagon officials insist they are not concerned that some personnel are balking at the vaccine, since those resisting are few. Still, Pentagon efforts are under way to have senior officers and medical personnel counsel enlistees.

The Navy has disciplined 14 sailors on two carriers, the USS John C. Stennis and the USS Independence, for rejecting the first of six vaccination shots ordered by the Pentagon, officials said.

A second round of shots was to begin yesterday on the Independence, and at least five other sailors are refusing, said Lori Greenleaf of Morrison, Colo. Among them is her son Erik T. Julius, a 22-year-old aviation boatswain's mate third class, who Greenleaf said had heard rumors about bad health effects from the vaccine.

"He's expecting to go to captain's mast by the end of the day," Greenleaf said, referring to the administrative disciplinary action.

Mark S. Zaid, a lawyer for 11 Independence sailors, said the protest was expanding to another ship, the USS O'Brien.

While experts say there are no known serious risks from the vaccine, in some cases it does produce headaches or other minor ailments. But Zaid and others say there has been little detailed study of the vaccine, which some suspect may be linked to gulf war syndrome, the mysterious illnesses reported by some who served in the Persian Gulf war.

Zaid has asked for a meeting with defense officials to address the sailors' questions and try to suspend additional punishments. "There are some very serious concerns about the vaccine," he said.

In addition to the 14 sailors who refused the vaccine, two Air Force enlistees have refused to take the shots and are being disciplined. No Army or Marine Corps personnel are known to have declined the vaccine, said Col. Richard Bridges, a Pentagon spokesman.

Twelve of the 14 sailors aboard the two carriers have received 30 days of restriction to their ship, 30 days' extra duty and a reduction in rank for refusing to obey an order, said a Navy spokesman. The other two were discharged because of their refusal, along with previous misconduct, the spokesman said.

Navy officials said they knew of no other sailors who had refused the vaccine.

`Nothing to fear'

"There's nothing to fear from this particular vaccine," Bridges said, noting that it has been in use since the 1970s. "It's fully licensed and approved by the FDA."

Bridges said that 31,478 of the estimated 36,000 troops in the gulf have received the first vaccine and that 21,371 have received the second of six vaccines, which are given over 18 months. A yearly booster shot is also required.

A Pentagon study last fall reported that Iraq had produced 8,500 liters of anthrax and developed weapons capable of delivering it. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen warned last year that a dose of anthrax equal to the amount of sugar in a 5-pound bag could kill half the population of the District of Columbia.

Both Cohen and Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, have begun receiving their vaccinations.

There has been some long-term study over the years involving the anthrax vaccine and other immunizations.

Researchers at Fort Detrick, outside Frederick, in 1974 completed a study of 77 lab workers who took multiple immunizations -- including the anthrax vaccine -- and found no adverse effects.

In addition, Dr. Philip S. Brachman, a former epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and now a professor at Emory University, conducted the first review of the anthrax vaccine on mill workers in the late 1950s and found little cause for concern. Only a handful of patients experienced minor side effects, such as a swollen arm.

Chuck Dasey, a spokesman for Fort Detrick, where the Army helped develop the anthrax vaccine, said 150,000 of the 500,000 personnel who served in the gulf war had been vaccinated. But two independent studies discounted any link between the shots and gulf war syndrome.

Room for improvement

Still, some experts say that while the anthrax vaccine is safe, it could be made more effective.

W. Seth Carus, a biological warfare expert at the National Defense University, said a one-time vaccine, rather than a six-shot effort over many months, would be more useful for an immediate threat posed by a military operation. The military is working on an alternate vaccine, he said.

Brachman noted that the vaccine "may be less effective against some strains of anthrax."

Patrick E. Eddington, a former CIA analyst who has alleged that the Pentagon and CIA covered up information about gulf war illnesses, said it is unlikely that Iraq would use a strain of anthrax susceptible to the existing vaccine.

As a result, the vaccine raises questions about whether troops in the gulf should be immunized against anthrax, said Eddington, who is exchanging e-mail with many of the recalcitrant sailors.

Fort Detrick's Dasey rejects those notions and said the vaccine will stand up to any threat. "What makes the vaccine effective," he said, "is that the immune response is based on a component that is common to all strains of anthrax."

Carus said that for now, the current anthrax vaccine is the best hope for the most deadly kind of anthrax attack: an aerosol cloud that would send deadly spores deep into the lungs.

"We know one thing, and that is the only protective measure against an inhalation exposure is a vaccine," he said. "I don't see any other alternative."

Chicago Tribune April 18, 1998

Napalm Shipment's Trip Back To California Delayed

By T. Shawn Taylor
Tribune Staff Writer

The 12,000-gallon shipment of napalm diverted from its Indiana destination this week remained in Kansas on Friday but was expected to be en route by Saturday to a temporary storage facility on the West Coast, Navy officials said.

It was unclear what was holding up the shipment to the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Center, in a remote area about 150 miles north of Los Angeles, which was supposed to have left Thursday.

The napalm was taken off a larger train Wednesday night and held in a Kansas City, Kan., rail yard after an East Chicago recycler asked to be released from its contract and threatened to reject the napalm if it arrived at the facility. Pollution Control Industries cited

political and public pressure Monday in its request to cancel the $1.7 million contract.

Robin Yocum, a spokesman with Battelle Memorial Institute, a Navy contractor managing the disposal plan, said Friday the Navy is unlikely to pursue legal action to force the company to honor the deal.

``At this point, PCI doesn't look like a very viable possibility, and we are looking at other options," Yocum said.

The two 6,000-gallon containers of the jellied munition will remain at China Lake until the Navy plots a new course.

Meanwhile, Navy and Battelle officials continued fielding calls Friday from companies nationwide vying to win a contract to dispose of the petrochemical.

Navy spokeswoman Jeannie Light said officials also have received calls of support from private citizens. One Georgia man, citing railroad tracks that lead to his remote farmland, offered to store the 12,000-gallon shipment, Light said.

The Navy is not considering his offer, Light said, but appreciates the sentiment.

``It does your heart good to know you have support out there," she said.

The shipment left the Navy's Fallbrook weapons facility outside San Diego April 11.

Los Angeles Times April 17, 1998

China Rejects Joining Missile-Control Group, U.S. Officials Say

WEAPONS: The White House had hoped to make Beijing's agreement the centerpiece of a June summit.

By Jim Mann,
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON--China recently rebuffed an American arms-control proposal that it should join the main international organization for limiting the spread of missile technology when President Clinton visits Beijing this summer, senior administration officials say.

By not becoming a member of the 29-nation group, known as the Missile Technology Control Regime, China retains the ability to sell some components or technology for ballistic missiles to countries such as Pakistan and Iran.

Clinton administration officials had hoped that an agreement bringing China into the group could be the centerpiece of the president's trip in late June. A separate accord on nuclear cooperation was the focal point of Clinton's Washington summit with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in October.

But now that the idea has fallen through, administration officials are exploring other themes and lesser deals that might be highlighted when Clinton goes to China. One point administration officials say they will stress, for example, is that Clinton's trip will be the first chance for a top-level meeting with China's dynamic new premier, Zhu Rongji.

The unsuccessful U.S. initiative on missiles came in a late-March visit to Beijing by John Holum, director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. He and other administration officials laid out a proposal under which China would become a full member of the missile-control group soon and, in exchange, would gain greater access to American commercial space technology, senior U.S. officials said.

But China showed no enthusiasm for such a deal. Instead, U.S. officials say, Chinese officials repeated to Holum their long-standing objections to joining the group. They said they would be happy to get more American space technology but not if it was linked to membership.

China has said the missile group amounts to a Western club, imposing export rules that Beijing had no role in drafting. Chinese officials have also argued that it is unfair for the United States to seek limits on missile technology, while Washington itself exports F-16 jet fighters that might also be used to deliver weapons of mass destruction.

Chinese officials "consider the [group] a cartel," said Bates Gill of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. "It's led by the United States. And membership would crimp their room for maneuver in dealing with various countries like Pakistan and Iran."

Although China did not slam the door on joining the missile accord someday, administration officials have given up hope of getting it to join soon or in time for Clinton's trip.

For more than a decade, U.S. officials have been trying to persuade China to stop exporting missiles or missile technology to the Middle East. The American efforts began when U.S. intelligence discovered that China had sold intermediate-range missiles to Saudi Arabia and was preparing to sell advanced, solid-fuel missiles to several other countries.

On several occasions, the Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations have won commitments about missile exports from Beijing, only to discover later on that China was continuing to help other nations' missile programs.

The Bush administration won what it considered a milestone accord in 1992 that China, while not joining the missile group, would obey its rules. But later that year, U.S. intelligence reported that China had exported its new, solid-fuel M-11 missiles to Pakistan. Chinese officials later explained that, in their interpretation, this type of missile wasn't covered by the rules.

Two years later, then-Secretary of State Warren Christopher won a more explicit agreement from China under which Beijing acknowledged that the M-11 missile was covered by the rules and agreed to stop exporting the missile itself. But China since then is said to have kept on exporting missile parts and technology, which it contends are not covered by the agreement.

Some administration critics believe that the attempt to bring Beijing into the missile accord was a bad idea. They argue that China would not obey the rules anyway and that by promising to give China greater access to U.S. commercial space technology, the administration would have been giving away more than it was getting.

"I think it's a good thing the Chinese didn't agree to join," said Gary Milhollin of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, an independent antinuclear group. "If they did, we would have dropped the barriers to [American] exports to China, when there was no reason to think China would change its export behavior."

The idea of offering China greater access to U.S. space technology is itself controversial because of the recent disclosure that two American space companies, Hughes Electronics in El Segundo and New York-based Loral Space & Communications, are under criminal investigation for possible violation of export-control laws in their help for China's rocket program.

Scientists from the two companies helped China investigate what went wrong in 1996 after a Chinese rocket carrying a Loral satellite exploded in a village near China's launch site in Sichuan province. The two companies have said they and their employees did not act improperly.

Some specialists on weapons proliferation, such as Henry Sokolsky, a former Bush administration official, argue that U.S. commercial space technology could be used to improve the performance of China's rockets and missile program.

Administration officials insist that the space technology being offered to China has no relevance to missiles. "Obviously, the United States is not going to provide assistance to China's missile program," said Gary Samore, the National Security Council's leading expert on weapons proliferation.

None of the other possible agreements envisioned for Clinton's trip to China are as far-reaching as was the idea of membership in the missile

control organization. U.S. officials have also talked of making progress toward bringing China into the World Trade Organization but believe that they can conclude at most only a partial deal in time for the summit in June. There is also talk of smaller agreements concerning law enforcement and anti-drug cooperation.

Los Angeles Times April 19, 1998

U.S. Tank-Killing Warplanes Sought

From Times Wire Reports

U .S. Defense Secretary William S. Cohen said Jordan is seeking tank-killing A-10 fighter jets to bolster its air force. Cohen, beginning his first visit to the Middle East as Defense secretary, spoke to reporters after meeting Jordan's Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali in Amman, the capital. The heavily armored A-10 jets operate mainly on low-flying missions and were used to destroy large numbers of Iraqi tanks in the Persian Gulf War. They are in the process of being phased out of the U.S. Air Force inventory. Cohen did not say if the United States would be able to meet Jordan's request.

Chicago Tribune
April 19, 1998

Governor Assails Navy Over Fuel Spills By Warships

From Tribune News Services

OLYMPIA -- Gov. Gary Locke has told the Navy he is alarmed at the growing number of fuel spills by warships and disappointed by the lack of cooperation in investigating the spills.

In a letter Friday to Navy Secretary John Dalton, Locke said six spills have dumped 10,000 gallons into Puget Sound this year.

The most recent involved 400 to 450 gallons of jet fuel Wednesday night, and Locke said the Navy refused to let state inspectors board the carrier USS Carl Vinson, docked at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton.

Locke said he was disappointed with Adm. W.D. Center at the shipyard, who just last year signed an instruction asking Navy captains to cooperate in state spill investigations.

"As governor of the state of Washington, protecting Puget Sound is a critical priority for me and I urge you to make it a high priority for the Navy as well," he wrote.

Center said he doesn't believe state investigators' presence on the ship Thursday would have been useful.

"All we have is public pressure," said Steve Hunter, state spill-response supervisor. "They're here, they spill, and they're gone."

Washington Post April 19, 1998 Pg. B2

Federal Diary
By Mike Causey

Reinventing Horse Sense

Phil Archuleta, a civilian employee at the U.S. Marine Corps Depot in San Diego, came up with a simple-sounding idea that will save taxpayers more than $200,000 a year. Not much by government spending standards, still, every little bit helps. He suggested that the Marine Corps recycle (rather than give away) the extra-large uniforms it issues to full-figured recruits. After the grueling boot camp, many recruits find they have lost lots of weight and must be reissued smaller uniforms.

Before Archuleta came along, most of the slightly used extra-large uniforms issued to recruits were given away. Archuleta suggested that uniforms be cleaned, and repaired if necessary, and issued to the next class of recruits.

When Vice President Gore heard about it, he said he wanted to meet the guy personally. So tomorrow, at the opening day of the "Reinvention Convention" at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Northwest Washington, Archuleta is scheduled to introduce Gore to the crowd of reinventors.

Washington Post April 20, 1998 Pg. 9

Attorney Says Tripp Has Been Vilified, Fears Loss of Job

Associated Press

An attorney for Linda R. Tripp, whose secret tape recordings triggered the investigation into Monica S. Lewinsky's alleged affair with President Clinton, said yesterday that his client has been unfairly labeled a "betrayer" and now fears being fired from her job at the Pentagon.

"Linda has chosen to tell the truth. That has put her in a tremendously tough situation and she is now the subject of vilification by all the supporters of the president," the lawyer, Anthony Zaccagnini, said on ABC's "This Week."

Former White House deputy chief of staff Harold Ickes, appearing hours later on CNN's "Late Edition," said: "I don't think the White House has been vilifying her."

Tripp has not worked at her Pentagon office since the Lewinsky controversy erupted in January. Zaccagnini said she twice has asked to return to her former position at the Pentagon but the department has refused.

Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Cooper, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to comment on Tripp's request, but he said she remains a Pentagon public affairs specialist. Tripp, a Clinton political appointee who makes $88,000 annually, no longer directs the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference but is drafting an operating manual for the program, which raises public understanding of defense issues.

Does she believe she's going to be fired?

"Absolutely," Zaccagnini said.

Zaccagnini said Tripp likely would be called within weeks to testify as a grand jury witness in the independent counsel's investigation regarding allegations that Lewinsky, a former White House intern, had an affair with Clinton.

Lewinsky allegedly told Tripp during secretly recorded telephone conversations that she had a sexual relationship with Clinton and was encouraged to cover it up. But in an affidavit filed in Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit against the president, Lewinsky denied having a such a relationship.

Zaccagnini also said Tripp does not know who wrote a mysterious three-page "talking points memo," but indicated she does not think it was Lewinsky -- for reasons "I really can't disclose."

Prosecutors are trying to determine who wrote the document urging Tripp to file an affidavit in the Jones case backing away from her account of Kathleen E. Willey's story that Willey had been fondled by Clinton. The document also urges Tripp to say Lewinsky lied about her alleged affair with Clinton.

CURRENT NEWS SERVICE
ROOM 4C881, PENTAGON , WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-7500
Tel: (703)695-2884 / 697-8765 Fax: (703)695-6822/7260

CHIEF: Richard Oleszewski **NEWS DIRECTOR:** Taft Phoebus **EARLY BIRD EDITOR:** Linda Lee
EDITORS: Elmer Christian, Erik Erickson, Janice Goff, Meredith Johnson
SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Carol Rippe **ADMINISTRATION:** Wendy Powers **PRODUCTION:** Defense Automated Printing Service (Room 3A1037)